

Franklin Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, T. Biercz, D Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, A. Vernick, P. Walitsky and Council liaison T. Chase. Absent: J. Clyde, C. MacIvor.

Chair's report: A. Vernick noted the reappointment by Council of D. Pydeski, P. Walitsky, and W. Andrews (alternate). He received an e-mail from John Loos, thanking the Commission for the Environmental Stewardship award. Two NJDEP hazardous substance release notices were received, both from transformers during Hurricane Sandy. A budget of \$500 for 2013 was approved; this covers our ANJEC membership and the award plaques. He received a notice of an ANJEC 'Capitol Day' this Friday in Trenton, which he will attend.

T. Chase reported on Green Team activities and application for recertification.

A. Vernick presented the 2012 Goals and Objectives, as a draft for the 2013 version; most items will continue as objectives. A. Schmidt suggested that we try to sponsor another rain barrel workshop, for a wider area in hopes of getting more attendees. A. Vernick will contact the NJ Water Supply Authority to see if they would be interested. P. Walitsky noted that according to the manager of the ShopRite on Easton Ave., 90% of the students at Elizabeth Ave. School receive free or reduced price lunches (ShopRite supplies the food); she would like to support an environmental program there. This could be a site for another community garden (see below). The Commission might also present a seminar on bee-keeping; A. Schmidt will contact Cathy Blumig about this.

The minutes of the Dec. 3 meeting were approved.

Website: a suggestion was made that the EC support low energy use building. P. Walitsky replied that a house with no input of electricity, and heating is possible, but not easy. If the Board of Education is about to build a new school on Claremont Ave., we should push them for it to use as little external energy as possible, despite the added expense (but avoidance of ongoing expense for energy).

Four plans were reviewed, including revised plans for a banquet hall between Churchill Ave. and Hamilton St., originally approved in 2008.

Community gardens: nothing new. We still need someone to manage the garden at Pine Grove Manor School. T. Chase reported on a Planning Board recommendation for a garden on the old parking lot at Norma & Martin Sts.

Open space funding: ANJEC sent a request for support for ongoing dedicated state funding for open space preservation and maintenance. The Commission will pass this to the Council for a resolution of support.

New business: D. Triggs presented a review of the movie ‘Promised Land’, about fracking, and copies of a National Geographic article about fracking.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.