

Franklin Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present: J. Clyde, C. MacIvor, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, A. Vernick, P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. D. Pydeski arrived at 7:16 PM. Absent: W. Andrews and T. Biercz.

Chair's report: it may be time to send in the notice calling for nominations for the Environmental Stewardship awards to the Franklin Times, c/o Joyce Miller. The Commission might look at its Goals and Objectives for the year to see what initiatives should be undertaken. Two DEP Hazardous Substance Release reports were received; one concerning pesticide use at Canal Walk without informing residents. A General permit request and flood hazard application were received from the proposed Franklin Nursing Home on Old New Brunswick Rd., as were notices concerning Trap Rock Industries' proposal for installation of solar cells on its properties east of Laurel Ave./Rte 603.

The minutes of the meeting of May 7 were approved.

Web site: A. Schmidt has updated various dates, and will continue the notice to sign up for plots at the Naaman Williams Park community garden, without a cut-off date. It was suggested that Johnny Tibbs' contact information be added, since he is unofficially managing the garden.

There were no plans for review.

John Walker arrived at 7:21 PM, just in time for discussion of the community gardens. Nothing further has been heard from the Pine Grove Manor School concerning a manager for that garden (one candidate said he could help out, but not manage it). John Walker talked to Liz Nelson about managing it, but she is going away for the summer. Johnny Tibbs has been unofficial manager of the Naaman Williams Park garden, and has been doing a good job signing up users – 2/3 of the plots have been assigned. Not all of the weeds have been cut. Lumber has been cut for definition of additional plots, but the underground irrigation system has not yet been designed by Engineering, let alone bid and constructed, and the laying out of additional plots is awaiting this. Pulled weeds are being stored in the center aisle, where new plots will eventually be emplaced.

T. Chase brought up the desire of the videography group to videotape a meeting for showing on the township TV channel. It was agreed to do this at one of the next two meetings, at which the Goals and Objectives will be discussed.

J. Clyde reported further on the stream clean-up: Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association was impressed by the large turnout (between 50 and 75 volunteers). He would like to schedule next year's clean-up early, in time for the next

newsletter, to get a preferred date, put it on our web site, and get it into school schedules. However, a site needs to be selected.

T. Chase reported on the community visioning session earlier on May 21 about using the Stoot-hoff-Gunther Farm as an agricultural heritage site. He also reported on progress in planning the north-south bicycle path, whose location and surface were discussed. P. Walitsky reported on birdwatchers observing the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Randolph & Schoolhouse Roads.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.