

Franklin Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, T. Biercz, J. Clyde, C. MacIvor, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, A. Vernick and P. Walitsky. Council liaison T. Chase arrived at 7:13. Absent: D. Pydeski.

Chair Arnold Vernick presented the 2014 schedule for adoption. In seven months there would be only one meeting, primarily due to holidays on the first or third Monday of the month; in five months there would be two meetings. The Commission voted unanimously to approve this calendar and send it for publication and posting on the web site.

A. Vernick presented a letter from Gregory Stelnick, 200 Old Georgetown Rd., concerning dangers to wildlife from the NJ Water Supply Authority's dredging of the Delaware and Raritan Canal, including threatened species such as the Wood Turtle. The Commission discussed the matter, and decided to invite Mr. Stelnick to an upcoming meeting to discuss it further. Two other letters concerned hazardous substance investigation of the Exxon station on Easton Ave. (between JFK Blvd. and DeMott Lane), and a flood hazard area permit on Davidson Ave. A message from Mark Healey concerned the budget request for 2014. The Commission will again request a budget of \$500, which goes primarily to ANJEC membership and the Environmental Stewardship plaques.

The minutes of the meeting of Sept. 9 were approved. There was nothing new at the web site.

Three plans were reviewed. Discussion resulted in a motion by J. Clyde to ask township staff to require that when an applicant submits a revised plan, they include a cover letter indicating what changes have been made, so that the Commission can find and review the changes. This motion was passed unanimously.

T. Chase and Paul Walitsky attended a Sustainable Jersey meeting in Monroe Township. P. Walitsky learned of a Sustainable Jersey action recommended by the Green Faith group, sending letters to township houses of worship requesting that they conserve water.

Environmental Stewardship awards were discussed, without any clearly supported candidates emerging. The question of how to set up a Community Gardens committee was discussed. The due date for submissions to the township newsletter is Nov. 1; can a request for volunteers be submitted by then?

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

