

**Franklin Township Environmental Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 4, 2013**

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

Chair's report: he sent a thank-you note to Anthony McBride's superior, for McBride's presentation on Wild Turkeys. He noted members' terms expiring at the end of the year, and will schedule an executive session at the next meeting to discuss reappointments.

Minor corrections to the minutes of the Oct. 21 meeting were made, and the minutes were approved as corrected. A. Schmidt will post the notes on the Wild Turkey seminar on the web site.

One plan was reviewed, for a private school for special needs children at Riverview Drive, Apgar Drive and Weston Canal Rd. This will utilize an existing currently unoccupied building. A large area of asphalt paving will be removed in favor of a grass playing field, making the projected use an improvement over present conditions.

T. Chase reported on 1) a meeting with Steve Berkowitz of All American Poly and township engineer Tom Zilinek to set up containers to receive soft plastic for recycling (a note on this will appear in the township newsletter in December), 2) a Somerset County Recycling presentation to the Council Public Works Committee on moving to single stream recycling – putting all recyclable materials into one 95-gallon container - which is expected to increase the amount of material recycled. The Commission discussed this and felt it to be a good idea, though P. Walitsky noted that residents of adult communities who must keep their recycling containers inside their garage may have trouble finding room for a 95-gallon container, and townhouse communities with no garages recycle at a small central shed.

C. MacIvor reported on the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team presentation on invasive plant species at the township library. A. Schmidt will put some materials on the Commission web site, and will contact the speaker, Melissa Almendinger, about giving a presentation at an Environmental Commission meeting next year (May or June).

A. Schmidt reported on a front page article in the Home News Tribune about the issue of the proposed digital billboard on Rte. 287, featuring Skip Schafer's attack on township spending on the law suit [which *defends* the township's ordinance banning digital billboards]. General discussion ensued.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.