

**FRANKLIN LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES – APRIL 20, 2015**

In Attendance: Commissioners Carole Holden, Sue Barbuto, Michael Colombo, Skip Williamson, Gary Sheppard, Larissa Symbouras, and Moira Murphy. Green Team member Bob Clark. Mayor Frank Bivona.

Absent: Don Scine, Omar ElRafei, Ann Swist

The March meeting of the Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission was called to order at 7 p.m. and held in the municipal building on Monday, April 20, 2015. The minutes of the previous meeting were not read.

Chair's Report:

Clean-Up Day -

The cleanup day has been set for the morning of May 9, and flyers were distributed for publicizing. Carole asked the DPW, as well as the mayor and council about logistics, and decided to again meet at nature preserve where people will pick up gloves, bags, and picks, and then go to 4 areas to clean up:

1. Ewing Ave around the nature preserve
2. Waterview drive, across from nature center
3. McBride field/Wyandotte Drive/ High Mountain Road by the pump house
4. Scioto drive

In addition, the chair is asking for suggestions from the community to include them. Michael recommended the path between municipal building and tennis courts, and also the recreational field by Pulis Ave.

Discussion was held regarding giving out t-shirts to participants, and it was agreed that additional t-shirts would be ordered for participants after Carole discusses it with Greg Hart, as the town has the "clean communities" money for funding.

Green Fair –

After the green fair, Carole had a meeting with Environmental Commissions of Wyckoff & Oakland to see how they felt about having an annual green fair. She didn't get huge vote of enthusiasm from a manpower perspective, and the other two towns pushed for an every-other-year schedule. However, some participants were very into the green fair (i.e., the Health Barn at Abma's) and were disappointed in that scheduling, so Carole thinks that maybe we need to have it every year. Larissa agrees. The commissioners will need to discuss this again in the future.

Member Reports:

Pilgrim Pipeline – Michael – The Commission’s proposal/report went to the mayor and council. Since Michael is in the industry, he gets a lot of related publications and sees that there’s an undercurrent to rebuild the infrastructure, especially pipelines. Most haven’t been built since the 1970s. The companies tend to replace like with like (i.e. 48” pipeline gets replaced with 48” pipeline), and the regulations haven’t changed in 20 years. We need to keep an eye on Pilgrim because they’ll push it through. The rumor is they won’t be allowed to build it in rights of way, while in New York, it’s being planned to go through New York City’s entire water supply. New York, therefore, is really where the fight is, as if Pilgrim can’t build the pipeline along rights of way, it can become cost-prohibitive for them.

Mayor Bivona suggested that the council was taking a similar position as before, which is to prefer Ramsey’s resolution, which really says nothing except Pilgrim should make sure the pipeline is good, safe, and proper. He pointed out that a resolution doesn’t actually do anything, and we don’t have any jurisdiction over this. The mayor asked the Environmental Commission to stay on top of the issue, and as soon as Pilgrim files an application, make sure we’re protected. He’s not against a resolution but he’s not sure what those resolutions ever do. His concern with Franklin Lakes joining Mahwah’s resolution is that they don’t want the pipeline through Mahwah, but would instead be happy to see it shifted from Mahwah to Franklin Lakes, along Route 287. Even so, NJ only has limited jurisdiction, as jurisdiction really rests more at the federal level.

Michael agreed with the mayor’s observations, and outlined the state’s jurisdiction, which is solely as an oversight agency to ensure that Pilgrim is pressured to follow the federal guidelines to the letter.

Water - Michael – He read the water pledge we got from the Oakland Environmental Commission, but instead of doing something similar, he’s going to be doing eco tips in the town e-blast and on the town website, by sending them to webteam@franklinlakes.org.

Public Education and Outreach – Sue – The team for the 2nd annual FLOW green film festival has been meeting since January and have selected 4 films, representing a diversity of issues. Flyers were distributed for publicity. The speakers following each of the films have been acquired. The speaker for first film is Craig Goldman, from the community emergency response team, and he’ll try to get members from the other towns as well. The second film is good for children, and the speaker will discuss composting. The third film is about overpopulation and species extinction, and is the most controversial & hardcore of the four. The speaker, J.R. Frank, will discuss fossil fuels. The fourth film will be ending the festival on a positive note; it’s about students in the Adirondacks near lake Champlain, who put together an environmental educational summit after Hurricane Irene. The film’s director & writer will speak. There might also be a mini film about not using bags from girl scout troupe, as well as possibly submissions to the green film contest.

Energy – Skip – N/A

Recycling – Carole for Liz – Shred day is this Friday. There was an article in paper that mobile shredding program helps protect identity. The DPW has the shred day covered 1-4 p.m., but volunteers are needed 4-5 p.m., which Carole and Sue will probably cover. The town's electronic sign broke and another is on order, but we don't know whether it will arrive on time to advertise shred day.

Liz and Carole are working to put together something for the town's e-blast to measure people's awareness of recycling, but Liz reported that this year 4,800 tons in recycling was measure, 600 tons more than last year.

Altogether, the town has sold about 100 recycling bins and just ordered more.

To enforce recycling efforts, the town has tripled its budget for Liz, so she can take on more hours, all under the theory that it both helps the environment and pays for itself. Mayor Bivona is not a proponent of issuing fines, at least initially, and believes that enforcement starts with instructing the garbage men not to pick up obvious recycling in the trash. The next step is for Liz to pick a block and put stickers on garbage cans containing recycling to notify the garbage men to not take them and warn the homeowners to separate the recycling. Mike pointed out that down the shore you get one can per house, and if you can't fit all the garbage, you have to hold onto it for the next week. Mayor Bivona suggested extending the once a week pickup to a longer period of time, because with most people when they don't have the pickup as readily available, they find they don't have as much garbage.

Planning Board – Gary – High Mountain: Mayor Bivona and Gary will have the plans shortly, and as soon as they do they'll go up on the website. Mayor Bivona has been fighting for public access to the nature preserve for all. Toll Brothers tried to handle things in a less than appropriate way, and the mayor called them on it; they only want it to benefit them, but you can't be a part of the community and then be exclusive, unless you make it all private roads and put a gate up. Otherwise, don't ask for roads from the borough.

Environmental Contaminants/Bees – Larisa – Larissa provided a price list for starting a hive, and will look into the possibility of involvement from the scouts or school green teams to see if there's interest in caring for town-owned hives. Larissa has offered her services and those of her husband Eric in being the town's beekeepers and taking over primary care of the hives, providing they are given authority to make quick decisions if something is necessary to save the hive (i.e. a new queen or treatment for something such as nosema).

Old Business

N/A

New Business

Skip explained the process of egg oiling/geese peace – to try to get local goose population to migrate. If they have young, they won't migrate, but if you take or break eggs, they'll lay more. If you oil them, the eggs suffocate but the geese will still sit on them, to no avail.

Carole reminded the commission that we come up for recertification soon for Sustainable New Jersey, possibly this summer. One of the things we need to do is update the ERI, but the Toll Bros EIS can be used as addendum to update the ERI. Gary informed the commission that a lot more applications for home solar energy have been coming in to the planning board. They're looking to make it simpler for people to do it where variances aren't necessary. Mike suggested that the planning board look into Ubiquitous Energy, a California company which has developed transparent solar panels so they can replace windows.

The next meeting is set for May 18, at 7 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larissa Symbouras