

**FRANKLIN LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES – May 18, 2015**

**In Attendance:** Commissioners Carole Holden, Sue Barbuto, Michael Colombo, Skip Williamson, Gary Sheppard, Larissa Symbouras, and Don Scine. Green Team member Bob Clark. Mayor Frank Bivona, Council Liaison Ann Swist, intern Sabrina Graham.

**Absent:** Omar ElRafei

The May meeting of the Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission was called to order at 7 p.m. and held in the municipal building on Monday, May 18, 2015. The minutes of the previous meeting were not read, but were approved as written.

**Chair's Report:**

Cleanup Day -

There was not a big turnout and the weather wasn't stellar, but the group managed to get people over to Scioto, as well as by Market Basket, Ewing, and the back of McBride Field. Because the number of attendees was low, discussion was held as to ways of increasing attendance at the next Cleanup Day.

Bob suggested that holding two separate Cleanup Days might help, and Sue commented that at some point holding one in the spring and one in the fall was discussed. Holding the Cleanup Day on the same day as Wyckoff's was also discussed, with the resulting ability to piggyback off of their promotion of the day. Sue commented that she'd done some collecting with a group of students and was able to use the opportunity as a teaching tool, and both Carole and the mayor suggested that approaching school groups and organizations (churches, synagogues, scouts, etc.) to encourage them to join as a group would help. Ann pointed out the need to finalize and publicize the date earlier in the year than it has been, and Mike suggested that if a date could be chosen by November, it could be included in the town calendar. It was suggested that photos from prior cleanup days be used as the calendar photo for the month in which the cleanup is to be held, to further encourage participation. Liz and the mayor also discussed that the electronic sign belonging to the town is now back in working order and that it will help in the future.

Sustainable NJ –

Sabrina and Carole are working on recycling together, as well as a companion animal management pledge to move forward and broaden sustainable NJ credits. The town has to get the Companion Animal Pledge done and then can pass a Companion Animal Management Plan. Sabrina is going to RBARI & veterinarians, and left a message for Tyco, while Carole talked to Oakland Animal Hospital. The primary concern is that people are relinquishing animals because they can't afford to feed them, so they're

establishing a food bank for especially elderly who can't afford it anymore, plus people are relinquishing older dogs and dogs for various reasons which will need to be rehomed.

### **Member Reports:**

**Pilgrim Pipeline** – Michael – All fire and first aid departments are trying to get an ordinance passed that any oil being transported through every town has to be preceded by notification to the town. If municipalities recognize how much is coming through their towns they can be aware and prepared. Right now, railroads are exempt and don't have to tell anyone what's on their trains. Ann expressed concern regarding this information drawing terrorist attacks.

Michael commented on the aging infrastructure in the United States, as railroad tracks haven't been laid in 60-70 years. Oil companies are using rail cars made in the 1960s, which still pass tests & inspections but don't have modern bells and whistles. Mike has a search alert to keep informed regarding Pilgrim and any other pipelines. There hasn't been a new pipeline built in probably 30 years.

**Water** - Michael – He sent in a few ecotips for the website and has many more for the future. He's concerned because people are starting to use herbicides, and he recognizes the smell of one specifically, which we're breathing and drinking, and which contains half the ingredients in agent orange (2-4D). We should expect to see algae blooms in the ponds, etc., which will likely impact aquatic life in the deeper places, reservoir, Memorial Pond, etc. The biggest issue is private/improper/overuse of the pesticides.

**Public Education and Outreach** – Sue – How to Boil a Frog is the 3<sup>rd</sup> movie in the film festival, being shown this Thursday. Harriet Shugarman and other speakers will attend and speak on how we can take action in our communities. This film is the most dramatic and not really for children. However, the very last film next week is the most positive and the director is coming down from Vermont to speak.

**Energy** – Skip – He hasn't heard from Omar, but he should be at next meeting once he's done traveling. Skip commented on a disturbing article in the paper – detailing that carbon dioxide has exceeded previous acceptable levels and reached over 400ppm.

In his goose control duties, he's gotten several eggs, including 29 at Shadow Lake. They were a bit late, and think 4 had already hatched. In addition, he saw 3 large snapping turtles.

**Recycling** – Liz & Don – They've been doing a lot of work tracking recycling performance compared to previous years and also compared to current levels – we should see trash going down and recycling going up. They would like to see the recycling information on the town dashboard, and to that end, they've developed a mission statement, summary about what the recycling charts mean, etc. Recycling seems to be ticking along fairly steadily, even going up a bit. Trash is way down, but the data doesn't

make complete sense and some may be missing. It's still a good pattern, and good to tell and encourage residents.

Don did comment that on garbage, residents should have a lid on every can so it doesn't weigh as much and cost as much.

With regard to the annual data (as opposed to the monthly data), the pattern is more difficult to explain because our recycling apparently shot up in 2011 and then inexplicably dropped in 2012. From 2010 to 2012, no commingled was reported, and Liz postulated that the spike in 2011 could be an upswing in the price of recycled paper.

Liz suggested having one eblast 100% about recycling, all the dos and don'ts and other information, why it's important, etc.

Don suggested that if corrugated cardboard volume gets high enough, we may be able to get waste management to bring a compactor at no expense to us. It's worth asking the question and see what volume of corrugated we'd need to make it worthwhile to them. To do so, we would need different electrical put in. It could be run off one of the poles, but would take some work. Liz will look into that and ask questions.

The other thing we're waiting for is getting bigger dumpsters for commingled, which is in the works.

Anecdotally, everyone agreed that it looks like the rate of recycling is better.

The sale of recycling bins has become a standardized, easy process, with a constant movement in them. As several are sold, more are ordered.

Discussion was had regarding the possibility of moving to once-a-week trash pickup to limit it and encourage recycling, as well as regarding NJ's move to start talking about composting. Don went to Duke Farms to learn about composting and suggested all the commissioners should go as well. Carole suggested the possibility of approaching restaurants about composting.

Shred day: This was held Friday afternoon this time, which it turned out wasn't better than having it in the morning. 4.2 tons were shredded in October, and only 2.7 tons in the recent event. At shred day, Liz also handed out reusable bags.

The DPW now has a bin for plastic bags – which then are taken over to Stop & Shop, and eventually recycled into plastic benches.

It was agreed that educating the town about recycling seems to be helping, and discussion was held regarding positive and negative reinforcement for enforcing recycling, especially with the use of "thank you" stickers for those who recycle and "please recycle" stickers for those who don't. Gaeta has been instructed not to take recycling on trash

days, and the town is supporting them when it receives the resulting angry phone calls from residents.

**Planning Board** – Gary (with Mayor Bivona) – High Mountain: On May 6, Toll got preliminary approval for their plans, after many meetings and negotiations. There will be a public path that connects Franklin Lakes Road to Ewing, fences, and many more public access routes to the reservoir. Construction will likely start this year if they work quickly. The full plan has been reviewed, and resolutions will occur Wednesday night. Our town engineer will oversee the construction throughout the process. We've required Toll to inventory all the trees, not just the trees they think won't be affected. There will be mass grading because there has to be, but Toll has agreed not to cap or blend unsuitable material. Toll will be doing soil testing and all findings will be public, then the DEP will be reviewing the findings as well. Toll is prepared that there is likely to be pesticides. There will be 7 infiltration ponds throughout to maintain open space, and a lot of any runoff will go to the detention basins, rather than into the reservoir. Gary and the Mayor's understanding is that the detention basins will have vegetation, which our planner has recommended, and which the HOA will be required to maintain under the DEP. Mike explained that there are plants that are suited for phytoremediation, and that's what they'll use. Carole thanked the Mayor and Gary and everyone else working on this for engaging in the long arduous process, and putting in lots of work.

**Environmental Contaminants/Bees** – Larissa – Larissa reported that she's emailed the scout leaders who expressed interest in seeing the hives, with a view toward mentoring the scouts in getting their own hives. She's waiting for a response back. The EC and potentially the press will be notified when any meetings are set, to publicize the efforts.

**Old Business**

N/A

**New Business**

N/A

**Action Issues**

Carole is working on Sustainable Jersey with Sabrina and Gary.

The next meeting is set for June 15, at 7 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Larissa Symbouras