

**FRANKLIN LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – November 16, 2015**

**In Attendance:** Carole Holden, Larissa Symbouras, Michael Colombo, Sue Barbuto, Gary Sheppard, and Moira Murphy. Green Team member Bob Clark. Recycling Coordinator Liz Morris. Council liaison Ann Swist. America Corps Ambassador Lily Mastrodimus.

**Absent:** Don Scine, Skip Williamson, Omar ElRafei

The November meeting of the Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:02 p.m. and held in the municipal building on Monday, November 16, 2015. The minutes of the previous meeting were not read, but were approved as written.

**Chair's Report:**

Lily Mastrodimus is the NJ Watershed Ambassador for this watershed area (#3). Her goal is to promote environmental stewardship within her watershed. The idea is to think about wildlife habitats, conserve water, alleviate about storm runoff, helping to prevent fertilizer runoff, etc.

Lily's ideas consisted of:

1. Constructing a rain garden, maybe setting it up by the police station where there's a slope. (Liz has already suggested one in the back of the municipal building and reported that there was no initial resistance to it from the town. She talked to Eric at Mevo about it reported that they'd provide labor. The challenge is in the longevity of maintaining it. Lily will talk to Mevo once we've got approval for it.);
2. Rain barrels (which is a really cost effective way to reduce runoff from rooftops). She's been trained in how to make them and how to teach people how to make them. Lily suggested having a rain barrel making workshop, which would be a free and open event. She would make a presentation on benefits of owning one, how to make one, and how to maintain one, and then hold a workshop for everyone to make one to bring home. Lily could look into getting the barrels and supplies/fixings cheap and report back to us for the project. Suggestions were made to do this as a project with the Scouts or as a family project, an afternoon activity, possibly approach the middle school/high school. Liz raised the point that the K-8 schools are looking to be sustainable Jersey schools.

Gary asked Lily to speak about the importance of controlling storm water (Americorps stance, since Americorps funds her ambassadorship). She works for the DEP, and their interest is in keeping pollutants out of the storm drains/bodies of water. She's not yet entirely well versed in the DEP policies on development in

general; the DEP recognizes that development is inevitable in NJ, but it can only go so far.

This spring her project is to assess streams. Michael suggested the stream that feeds into the reservoir before, during, and after development to see what the changes may be. Gary commented that the development there, from a DEP perspective, may be an improvement because fewer chemicals are used in private homes than there are to maintain a golf course. There are also several other places in town that would be valuable for Lily to assess. She'll look into the Molly Ann Brook and look at a map for other potential sites.

Lily provided her telephone number for contact, which will be provided in the accompanying email rather than in the minutes, so that it will not be listed directly on the town website.

Spring cleanup is set for April 16, 2016. Liz suggested that it could be a good idea to have the water barrel event at the same time? The new motto for cleanup day is "Pride in Franklin Lakes is Picking Up." We want to be more creative this year, maybe sending people to their own neighborhoods to clean up after meeting at the municipal building to get the supplies (and possibly clean the preserve a different day). Liz asked that we attempt to keep accurate records of the cleanup, how many bags are collected, etc. The commission discussed getting help from the police to help us with overseeing cleanup day for the residents' safety, as they do for the runs in town.

Carole has been working on the companion animal management plan and is trying to get ideas as to what we can do. To that end, a separate meeting is being held on November 23.

### **Member Reports:**

**Water** – Michael – Mike said that there was not much to report.

Last year there was just over 2 meters of snow, we'll see what happens this year. It's been dry and the bodies of water are low. At this point, therefore, there is a recommended water restriction, which could turn into a mandatory restriction. Lawn watering is done so poorly and unnecessarily, it's such a waste. Ann asked how we induce people to stop, if they don't care about expense. Mike explained that watering on a sunny afternoon can actually burn the lawn from the sun's heat.

Carole still has a page of Mike's ecotips to send Lynette.

With regard to environmental issues, there are about 20 sites monitored federally, 500+ at state level, all within Franklin Lakes, all because there was an environmental issue at each of those sites at one point. Once a site is on the list, it's never removed. It isn't a clear reflection of that site's current status, but homebuyers can find the information through dataminer. Gary commented that the Toll brothers agreed to not do blending or capping on the soil for the development, so they're obligated to remediate any

contaminated soil. Underground storage tanks show up there in 2009 on dataminer. Soil will be removed and contaminants baked out, then it's replaced. The developer pays for an independent inspector.

This also goes to sustainable planting, and pesticides/fertilizers. It was suggested that the commission take a look at landscapers used in town and work out some sort of green certification from town and encourage that they be used.

**Public Education and Outreach** – Sue – We got the award certificate for the FLOW green film festival.

The next green film festival will be in April: 10 & 17, 21 & 28 (Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings; the days/dates are being changed in an effort to increase attendance). The committee is in the process of choosing the films. All films will still be at the Wyckoff Library (there's a new librarian, Laura, who had some good suggestions and the committee will be working with her).

Articles – Englewood set up its first electric vehicle station. Update on pilgrim pipeline. Zoning changes for expresscripts property (hearing on the 23<sup>rd</sup>), NYT piece on fracking being linked to early birthdays. LG got an award for green practices (built a green building). Three different ways to pay for solar in The Record. Two reports on recycling from our efforts.

**Energy** – Skip – Nothing to report.

Carole suggested that we should be approaching energy initiatives, although it's complex and she doesn't know how much we can contribute since the borough buildings are not going solar. She wondered whether we are in a position to advocate to the community that they go solar.

Liz suggested an anti-idling ordinance and commented about the moms waiting to pick up kids at school. The state law allows 3 minutes of idling, so our job would be to enforce that. There was a question as to whether the town has to pass an ordinance before the state statute can be enforced, or can the town cops just issue citations. Carole approached the cops regarding this issue a while back and got the cold shoulder. Sue commented that one of the films they've reviewed for the film festival is anti-idling, but it may not seem as congested/urgent here as in more urban areas. When she lived in Westchester and had kids in school, they had flyers and notices (your kids lungs are closer to your tailpipe than yours are). Ridgewood also has an anti-idling ordinance. It was suggested that perhaps we could get store owners on board with signs and notices against idling. Sue asked Carole to look in Sustainable Jersey for the anti-idling action.

Gary suggested that we talked to municipal buildings (such as the new police station), businesses, etc, about using LED rather than other lights. ConEd is giving rebates for putting in LED lights. Sue informed the commission that old CFL bulbs can be discarded at Home Depot (they should not just be thrown in the trash because they contain

mercury). Someone suggested talking to Greg about changing the lights in all the municipal buildings.

**Recycling** – Liz & Don – Don was in NY.

Liz reported that Stop & Shop (manager Mike Wunschuh) got a DEP recycling award (for which Liz submitted all the information), she also authored a press release regarding the partnership between Stop & Shop and the borough, listing what we've achieved in the last year and reminding individuals to recycle and why. Statistics in the press release were kept unspecific until a journalist chooses to pick up the story and indicate interest; it's been circulated to several journalists.

Liz and Don have been working to rewrite the town's recycling ordinance. The current ordinance for residences is fabulous, but nothing in it regarding businesses, schools, commercial organizations and properties.

Recycling: For the first month in a long time, recycling is down this month, although not really because monthly data doesn't tell you as much as data for larger periods of time. If you average the past two months for three years, recycling is still going up from 2013 and 2014, just slowly.

Compliance: The program has started. Gaeta started with 20 stickers/day (leaving stickers at the first 20 houses they find that don't comply), and the next week they're starting at house 21 with noncompliance stickers. They're keeping records of addresses, whether there is a garbage can, and what led to the sticker being used. This is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the program. Liz hasn't had a single phone call complaining about the stickers, which concerns her because either it means residents don't care or the Gaeta employees aren't putting them out as extensively as they're representing.

Textiles: Liz found a company that would come put bins at the recycling center and pay \$100/ton for what they collect. Liz needs to write proposal for mayor and council to review and provide feedback because of past resistance. If the mayor and council are on board, the next stage would be to get three proposals from three different companies. Carole suggested a resolution that the environmental commission supports the recycling coordinator's efforts to have a textile recycling outside company collect recycling to reduce the waste stream, which resolution was approved. If the bins and textiles are a mess, the bins would be pulled in 14 days by the vendor. Carole is writing the resolution and sending it to Greg.

**Planning Board** – Gary – N/A

**Environmental Contaminants/Bees** – Larissa – N/A

**Old Business**

N/A

**New Business**

N/A

**Action Issues**

See above.

The next meeting is set for December 21, at 7 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larissa Symbouras