

FRANKLIN LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES – January 19, 2016

In Attendance: Carole Holden, Larissa Symbouras, Skip Williamson, Gary Sheppard, Lana Sherman King. Mayor Frank Bivona, Council Liaison Ann Swist. Green Team member Kyle Stoker. Recycling Coordinator Liz Morris.

Absent: Moira Murphy, Michael Colombo, Don Scine, Sue Barbuto

The January meeting of the Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:09 p.m. and held in the municipal building on Tuesday, January 19, 2016. The minutes of the previous meeting were not read, but were approved as written.

Chair's Report:

Cleanup Day: 4/16/16 – Carole wrote to Dr. Frinari but got no acknowledgment. Carole will go to the school board or Ann will be happy to reach out to Dr. Frinari. Carole emailed MaryEllen Marra about cleanup day, and she has some ideas too. Carole will try to meet with MaryEllen by the end of the week. Cleanup Day is perhaps not our seminal accomplishment for the year, but it's important to bring out community and get them involved. Plus, we lose the Clean Communities Grant if we don't have a cleanup day. Carole will email us any ideas that she and MaryEllen come up with. The idea is to get into the schools, maybe starting with the environmental club. Carole isn't sure how to get a foot in the door with the schools.

Lana's son posted last year's flyer in his school at FAMS and 8th graders were told they could get peer points. Ann said she can get in touch with members of the Board of Education to get the peer leadership group to come out and help (they helped the shade tree commission with arbor day, so maybe she can get them to come out for cleanup day too). She'll present information about the cleanup day at the council work session too, to get enthusiasm going that way as well.

Gary suggested reaching out to the PTA and create a competition, especially among the little kids. Prizes were suggested, as well as targeting geographic communities based on the various schools.

Skip suggested holding some fishing derbies or something like that (with Ramsey Outdoor?) the way some other towns do.

Sustainable Jersey Projects: Carole has been unable to meet with Carol Tyler on one project, which is the rabies clinic. The idea and sole purpose is to raise the percentage of animals in the community who are licensed and vaccinated. Ramsey had a rabies clinic, Wyckoff has one, and Carol Tylor said it works swimmingly. It's at the DPW; the cars line up and get times for their appointment. They get the vaccinations done and get licenses, and it's inexpensive. The question is how we get the vaccinations free or cheap

from the state or elsewhere to offer to citizens free or at a reasonable price. As an aside, it would be nice if we could insist at the same time that the animals also get chipped. It brings animals home, but also prevents people from dumping animals at the shelter. The main purpose in doing this is for towns to increase the percentage of animals that are licensed – for our own safety, the safety of the animals, and the shelters.

Carole's also thinking about holding an Animal Fair.

Gary pointed out that septic is considered to be sustainable and is preferred over a sewer system, so we can use that to our advantage with Sustainable Jersey because half our town is on septic. We should get recognition for it.

Larissa will look at Sustainable Jersey's Going green for animals; how one class took action, to see if it can be translated to a bee-centric curriculum in Franklin Lakes schools.

Member Reports:

Water – Michael – Not present, but he had an assignment last month regarding water ecotips. He gave Liz a bunch of information for Liz to turn into digestible pieces for the eblast. The first laid out why people should want to conserve water (save money if you're on municipal water, save your well if you're on well water), so Liz drafted it. The second blast is regarding conserving water in the kitchen, and the third about conserving water in the bathroom. Then there will be other aspects of water conservation, such as the proper way and times to water lawns and planting flora that doesn't need as much watering, then how to conserve water while washing cars, finishing with rain gardens and rain barrels, which Liz is trying to time to come out in the spring. If Lily can tie into this last one with her rain garden project, it would be good.

Liz suggested that we could set up an email address for people to ask questions and Liz can check it and respond.

Liz distributed the tips that are drafted so far, looking for comments and input; she's going to work on the theory that no comment means they're fine and there's no objection.

Kyle suggested teaching the kids in school about water conservation, so they can bring the message home to their parents. It's a lot more effective than parents yelling at their kids. Liz commented that it's a matter of finding the best way in for kids to receive the information. Kyle had some great ideas about gardens, compost, etc, and getting the information in to the kids and schools. All the aftercare programs are run through the Y – they have like an earth/wind/fire science program. We could start there, and then the kids in those programs will talk to the other kids who aren't.

Lana's son was in the Nature Club at CRS with Patrick at Audubon. We need more collaboration with Patrick. Lana also suggested distributing stickers and other incentives/reminders to encourage people to shut off the water.

Public Education and Outreach – Sue – Not present, but Liz reported on the FLOW Green Film Festival

For this year, the challenge is attendance. On the kids' side our town is very involved, but not so much outside of that. This year we're trying something different – there will be two films on Thursday evenings, and two on Sunday afternoons, including one for kids. Someone's looking into short youtube films and talking to a neighbor kindergarten teacher about what to do for the kid-friendly film, which will be held on the second Sunday.

The dates are April 10, 17, 21, and one TBD day at Ramapo High School.

Shred day is 4/15, cleanup day is 4/16. Earth Day is Friday 4/22.

The films:

1. **Inhabit:** About permaculture. How we change food and consumerism to a more local system.
2. **Racing to Zero:** About recycling. This is a film about all the things you can and can't do. We're trying to get someone from Montclair State to talk about the reduce/reuse part of reduce/reuse/recycle, and the film will be about the recycling.
3. **Last evening at Ramapo High School – Just Eat It (Tentative)** – about how much food is wasted when it's not the perfect size, when it's got sell by dates, when it's imperfect looking food, and how many people are surviving on that food that's deemed "no good" by our standards

Energy – Skip – N/A

Recycling – Liz & Don – December this year has been better than prior years for recycling. We've also knocked 20% off of garbage. The town isn't spending the entire garbage budget.

It's all about the drip marketing, which is working. Stickering hasn't done anything yet, but we had figured it would be about 6 months before it had an effect. If it's going to have an impact, we should see it in the first 3 months of this year. Liz did get a call from one man who claimed to be a good recycler who didn't understand why he got sticker. So Liz found out from driver that there were 4 trash cans put out for garbage at a home for 2 people and tons of recycling in it with the garbage, so Liz sent letter detailing what you can recycle. Two other people came in to apologize for not properly recycling. This year we made more money from recycling than in previous years despite the fact that payment for paper has gone down.

Planning Board – Gary – N/A

Environmental Contaminants/Bees – Larissa – N/A

Old Business

N/A

New Business

N/A

Action Issues

The next meeting is set for February 16, at 7 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larissa Symbouras