

FRANKLIN LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES – February 16, 2016

In Attendance: Carole Holden, Larissa Symbouras, Skip Williamson, Gary Sheppard, Michael Colombo, Don Scine. Council Liaison Ann Swist. Green Team member Robert Clarke. Recycling Coordinator Liz Morris.

Absent: Moira Murphy, Sue Barbuto, Lana Sherman

The February meeting of the Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:08 p.m. and held in the municipal building on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. The minutes of the previous meeting were not read, but were approved as written.

Chair's Report:

ANJEC is having series of seminars on making a more effective Environmental Commission. Anyone interested should look into going.

Carole has sent an email to Kim Anderson, the head of the environmental club at Ramapo, to recommend a Ramapo student who could come and observe our meetings. They can't be commission members but could be green team & observers.

Cleanup Day: Carole talked to Mary Ellen Marra – The commissioners were given the prospective flyer to review. The plan is to work on 3 areas: tennis courts, including Old Mill Road & that area, McBride field, including Wyandotte & some of Franklin Lakes Road, & High Mountain Road School, and around the municipal building, the fields, memorial pond and garden, etc. We will have web page signup for the schools. The class with the most volunteers gets a prize: Ice cream party for them at school. Carole hasn't yet talked to or met with superintendent Dr. Lydia Furnari about this idea, but hopes to do so on Tuesday, February 23. Cleanup day will be 3 hours. We'll need a table with at least one commissioner manning it to take names & give everything out at each of the 3 locations.

Mike: We should bridge on the fact that the next weekend is Earth Day.

Companion Animal Management Plan: Carole had a long meeting with Carol Tyler a couple weeks ago. Five things we should do to get certification qualification for sustainable jersey:

1. Licensing and vaccinations because it's a law & it makes the town safer
2. Feral cats
3. Education on choosing a companion animal
4. Developing a food pantry to donate
5. Pet fair in spring or summer (maybe at the town fair to start)

First thing to do: Thinking about bringing in a rabies clinic, which would encourage people who don't license their dogs because of lack of vaccination. This would be a significant undertaking – Wyckoff does it and has all of the town employees do it for free. (Mike: we should have a sign by the pet food in Stop & Shop). The state will provide the vaccinations & syringes.

Feral cats: Program that can be done fairly cheaply if we get someone to come in and grab the cats. (Trap, spay/neuter/release)

Carole distributed a proposed questionnaire for people in town to answer. Liz suggested putting it on town site for people to answer, and Skip suggested making it shorter. Liz suggested paring down the questions to the ones we really want answered, or put the less important ones at the end, so they don't distract from other questions by being in the middle and cause people to stop answering if they lose patience..

Member Reports:

Water – Michael –Lots of great eblasts have been drafted, but we'll discuss it next time. Conservation tips can be used in the eblasts and also for Sustainable Jersey for water conservation.

Public Education and Outreach – Sue – Not present

Energy – Skip – N/A

Recycling – Liz & Don – We've got the 3 bins for recycling fabrics. This is the first time Liz has gotten positive feedback about anything; people have actually emailed her to say it's a fabulous idea. She doesn't know how much money it'll make or save, but it's really good public relations and has people thinking about recycling. There's also an ordinance in town that no other companies can come and put these kinds of bins anywhere in town; they have to come through the recycling coordinator.

January numbers for cardboard & commingled were not as good as last year. We're still averaging over 100 tons a month, but this was 106 & last year 115. The money we get for paper has gone down again this month. It had dropped from \$75 to \$70 & now \$60.

Stickering program: Not going as well as it could. One driver was really well briefed, was in charge of the program, and was doing well, but that particular driver has been suspended for 3 months. Sandro said he'd send the spreadsheet but hasn't.

San Francisco leads the nation in that 78% of their waste is recycled. They're aiming for 100% by 2020.

Liz is looking to organize a swap day in town. Bring everything – new or gently used & catalog it all. The next day, people come and take what they'd like. It will take a lot of organizing, and is not happening any time soon. It's about reusing rather than recycling.

Liz provided her report on everything we did last year via email, prior to the meeting. Recycling has gone from 19% to 26% in the last year.

Don: Went to seminars – Galloway township is distributing a flyer to every restaurant about food waste. There's a lab making beef. And mutated fish have been found, which is concerning because the mutations and chemicals causing them are being passed along to us.

Planning Board – Gary – There aren't specifically any issues right now that the EC needs to look at. Right now it's just the Gabrellian property at the corner of Colonial and Franklin Ave. The proposal is retail downstairs, doctors' offices upstairs, and the space needed to be rezoned for that. The back has been rezoned for parking, with caveats for plantings to absorb water and nitrogen, etc. There's an auto body shop there in the back that's now closed, and Mike asked about the MEK in the ground. Gary confirmed that removing it will require special treatment. It has to be baked out of the ground. We as a town have been very strict about not allowing the mixing of clean soil in with contaminated to get to acceptable levels.

The only other thing is the COAH (Council on Affordable Housing) ruling: Affordable housing. No one knows which way state is going to go.

Environmental Contaminants/Bees – Larissa – N/A

Old Business

N/A

New Business

N/A

Action Issues

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larissa Symbouras