

**FRANKLIN LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – March 21, 2016**

**In Attendance:** Carole Holden, Larissa Symbouras, Sue Barbuto, Lana Sherman King, Skip Williamson, Gary Sheppard, Michael Colombo, Moira Murphy. Mayor Frank Bivona, Council Liaison Ann Swist. Green Team members Robert Clarke and Kyle Stoker. Recycling Coordinator Liz Morris. Guests Reverend Alison Philip and Mary Ellen Marra.

**Absent:** Don Scine and Gary Sheppard

The February meeting of the Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:01 p.m. and held in the municipal building on Monday, March 21, 2016. The minutes of the previous meeting were not read, but were approved as written.

**Reverend Philip:**

The reverend has had a few conversations with Mayor Bivona about using public space in town to create community garden; they have one at the church and the produce they grow goes to a food pantry (CUMAC – Center for United Methodist Action in the Community) to be distributed in Paterson. The recipients don't get a lot of fresh produce and could use more. The Boy Scouts are on board to help build it, a few families from church and a few who are served by CUMAC would come help maintain it. We would need about 400 sq feet, but would need to decide whether we want to start smaller and work our way up, or start with 8-10 beds right from the beginning. The work would be from April to October. It would be maintained by the community, including CUMAC, Boy Scouts, Indian Hills Environmental Club might be interested, etc. Each group/family (8-10) would come once a month to maintain, so each group would be needed 5-6 times from April through October. There'd be an option to take the food directly to Paterson, or drop it off at the church. We would like the Green Team to take part too. We want irrigation so there'd be no watering.

Mayor Bivona: We do have areas, there are some issues to look at in terms of placement and irrigation. Two likely candidates for placement are McBride field (there's irrigation) or nature preserve (by the tree farm – there's irrigation). We'd be looking to start next spring, with maybe a "soft opening" late summer this year with late season crops. The mayor will bring it to the council. Sue suggested contacting Matt Carpenter about the Baptist Church joining too.

**Mary Ellen Marra:** She has been directing the annual clean-up day, which will take place on Saturday 4/16 from 9-12 with a rain date of 4/17. There are 3 locations. In conjunction with the police & DPW, we've decided to do McBride Field, Wyandotte, High Mountain. Pulis Avenue Field/Vishiconti, toward old mill. Old Mill, tennis courts, sidewalks, pathway to municipal field.

There will be one police officer and one DPW worker at each site. Also at least one member of the commission will be at each site to set everyone up. There's to be a maximum of 30 kids at each site – as people sign up (25 so far) and 30 choose a site, that site closes & people can choose one of the others. Every child who participates gets a homework pass (have to sign in at site, hence the need for an EC volunteer), the classroom in each school that has the most volunteers gets an ice cream party. Schools & Principals are all on board and promoting the event. The library is putting it in their newsletter & on their sign, plus flyers. There are signs around town also, as well as multiple posts to the various Facebook groups. Neon t-shirts will be passed out, so no safety vests are necessary. We'll have gloves, garbage bags, etc., tables & chairs. Children under 12 must accompanied by a parent.

Assignments: Tennis Courts will be Larissa, Kyle, Bob. Pulis will be Mike & Skip, McBride will be Lana, Carole, and Moira. If Liz isn't working, she'll go to Pulis. Larissa will try to bring bee literature to distribute.

### **Chair's Report:**

Carole has been in touch with Kim Angerson at Ramapo High School about getting a student observer to the EC. She is the Environmental Club advisor.

Between now & next month, Carole wants to talk to us individually, what do we want to move toward, are we accomplishing our goals, where are we lacking, where do you see us going?

### **Member Reports:**

**Water** – Michael – He provided lists to Liz for the water-related eblasts, Liz sent them back bulletpointed in 6 sections, distilled. Mike will get it back to Liz tomorrow.

Reservoirs are rising, so we're not as likely to endure drought this year.

Six separate northern NJ communities have been finding 1.4 dioxane (a carcinogen) 100x over EPA's action limit in the water.

**Public Education and Outreach** – Sue – Film festival: Four films, two on Sunday afternoons instead of evenings. Two in the evenings. One of the afternoon films is specifically geared for children. One in being shown in coordination with Ramapo High School kids. The speaker on the film about Ramapough is the Record reporter who exposed the problem, plus a MEVO representative.

Racing to Zero is the grand finale film, and the speakers will be from five businesses or programs that make their money on reusing. There will be a panel with exhibits to make it more interactive, people can walk around and ask questions.

Panelists this year are very “what can I do?” what’s my next step? Sue hopes that all commissioners will be able to attend the films.

**Energy** – Skip – N/A

**Recycling** – Liz – Tonnage for December, February has been really high. We’re now beginning to see a declining market, but keeping dual stream recycling in town was an inspired idea. Mixed recycling doesn’t sell – towns with that have to pay to get it taken away. Here, we’re getting \$65/ton for paper, \$40 for recycling. It will continue to drop, but the crunch will be at end of 2017 when our contract is up, and see what we can get. Our floor right now is \$50/paper, \$40/commingled. Revenue from Feb was \$4,802. The recycling market is cyclical. The price of oil is so low it’s cheaper to make plastic from fresh oil. Also, despite a recovery in the economy, it’s not enough to create a ton of consumerism to create a market for packaging. Scrap metal is down too. 2017 could start to see it picking up again. We’ve been successful at encouraging recycling, but now we have to work harder, and really have to work on the enforcement program.

The tonnage of garbage is flat while recycling is up. Revenue is down, but \$70k was saved in tipping costs.

Clothing bins: We got our first check for February - \$143 (1.5 tons of material).

It’s tonnage grant time: Liz has found some shortcuts to get information from people, and is also saving money by emailing. The deadline was today; she got some emails from local businesses. The new construction at corner of Franklin & Colonial may take us over the threshold to get us more than the minimum grant. It’s been different this year: food establishments are reporting where food waste has gone. Mechanics are reporting where they put used engine oil, etc. Landscapers: will be started this coming year because some are from out of town & come here, so we need to track them all down.

Don: N/A

**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 April 18, at 7 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larissa Symbouras