

**FRANKLIN LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES – APRIL 18, 2016**

In Attendance: Carole Holden, Larissa Symbouras, Sue Barbuto, Skip Williamson, Michael Colombo, Moira Murphy, Don Scine. Green Team members Mike Kucharski and Robert Clarke. Recycling Coordinator Liz Morris. Student observer Francesca Iacono.

Absent: Lana Sherman King, Gary Sheppard, Council Liaison Ann Swist.

The April meeting of the Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:13 p.m. and held in the municipal building on Monday, April 18, 2016. The minutes of the previous meeting were not read, but were approved as written.

Chair's Report:

Cleanup Day: We had over 150 volunteers, a few interesting items turned up – railroad sign, signpost, toilet, three old car rims, two tires.

We collected 96 garbage bags, 37 recycling bags. DPW and police were helpful.

Winners of the ice cream party determined.

Carole got back the results of the survey, and it's overwhelming that people want a free rabies clinic, so we'll see what's going to happen with that.

Member Reports:

Water – Michael – N/A

Public Education and Outreach – Sue – Film festival: Next date is the 26th because the school changed the date. The one on the 28th is going to have a mini green fair associated with it. This year the committee tried to get more current films. The children's one only got 6 kids. The committee realized that a craft time for children should have been done after school, not on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

Racing to Zero has 5 businesses coming for the "mini green fair": Green Demolitions, Habitat for Humanity, Cartridge World, Stop & Shop, and one other.

Energy – Skip – N/A. Side note: went to shadow lake and got 6 goose nests and 33 eggs.

Recycling – Liz & Don – A lot of the funding that allows us to do what we do for recycling comes from the recycling tonnage grant (requires appointment of recycling coordinator). Another way to raise money for that is a bottle tax – now proposed as a

smart container law. This is first time it's gone to assembly for a vote. If the bill passes, there's a concern that the recycling tonnage funding will disappear. We need to know what we can and should do to stop it being passed, as a group & individuals. The proposers want to use the money to get the lead out of Newark pipes.

This law would kill the municipalities' tonnage grants and likely part of the clean communities grant.

When you have a recycling coordinator and focused effort, you make a difference. The first 3 months of 2016 are 25% better than in the two prior years. We've been very successful with our receipt of the recycling tonnage grant – last year was 4,800 tons, Liz thinks we may get as high as 6,000 this year. A lot of it is from the building department and the construction that's been taking place.

Shred day: very successful. No tonnage numbers yet because of a death in the family of the shredding company. We don't get paid for it, but it comes back in the tonnage grant. We also got a ton of cardboard boxes we'll be paid for.

Liz went down to Trenton to train to be a clean communities coordinator.

Michael: Move to formally oppose the bottle bill 2281 as it will be deleterious to our strenuous ongoing recycling efforts. Carole will draft and send the opposition around as an email. If she doesn't hear from us, she'll assume we're in agreement & then she'll ask Don what we do with it – Probably send it to our two assembly people.

Don: There are 3 states that have bottle bills. There's no other country in the world that has it on a district level, it's always federal. NJ battled back and forth on this in the late 80s and determined that mandatory recycling works better than a bottle bill. After they finally decided that's the way to go and implemented all the laws, what's really brought this about now is that the state needs money and they think this can raise money for the lead in the water and cure all those problems. However, it will probably completely cut out the money that goes to municipalities.

The way a bottle bill works, it's a great anti-litter bill, but hurts in other ways. The battle now is not to repeal the mandatory recycling act (NYC has both), but if the recycling bill is in trouble, we need to be opposed. The language in this bill isn't clear that the mandatory recycling won't be repealed. Liz believes that the clean communities grant can also disappear without the recycling funding. She also believes that the lead is just the beginning, and other reasons for it will be found to maintain it.

How a bottle bill works: It's a tax. The distributor gets taxed on every bottle sold in NJ at the rate of 10-20 cents per bottle they deliver to the retailer. As a result, the price of all beverages will go up for them to recoup the tax. The consumer goes to the market and buys, then they have to take the back to the store (however, they'd only be allowed to bring 10/day), and store gives back to the consumer 10 cents per bottle. So now

consumers are not putting it in their recycling because it's more worth it to bring it back than recycle.

We will still get paid for paper, but now we'd have to pay for the rest of commingled recycling and have tipping fees rather than getting paid. We're going to lose recycling coordinators, or towns will have to pay for them.

Planning Board – Gary – N/A

Environmental Contaminants/Bees – Larissa – N/A

Old Business

N/A

New Business

For next meeting: Only if Gary Sheppard attends, the green building guidelines that Liz' (JR Frank) colleague in Wyckoff is interested in talking about. It's a low impact development checklist.

Action Issues

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larissa Symbouras