

**FRANKLIN LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES – August 15, 2016**

In Attendance: Commissioners Carole Holden, Larissa Symbouras, Don Scine, Skip Williamson, Susan Barbuto, and Moira Murphy. Green Team members Robert Clarke, May Soliman, Hannah Hassan. Council Liason Ann Swist, Mayor Frank Bivona. Recycling Coordinator Liz Morris. Students Francesca Iacono and Brandon Mooney.

Absent: Michael Colombo, Lana Sherman King, Gary Sheppard

The August meeting of the Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:08 p.m. and held in the municipal building on Monday, August 15, 2016. The minutes of the previous meeting were not read, but were approved as written.

Mayor Bivona informed the commission that special planning board meetings had taken place to finish the approvals and plans for the Colonial Road/Franklin Avenue new construction; construction should begin soon.

Chair's Report:

Franklin Lakes Festival – September 24. Recycling will be the major theme again. The commission can't focus on bees because Reef Botanicals/Blades and Board will have them, and can't focus on butterflies because it's the wrong season.

Brandon has been working on bike paths, trimming overgrowth, mostly high mountain road trails, to open the area for bikes. Mayor: Island trail needs pruning.

Parsons Pond Park – Carole was able to walk the land with Greg, Jason, & a representative from the NY/NJ trail conference. We will have walking trails, but there's no formal trail plan at this time because the conference is having a staff turnover. They're going to walk the land again in early September. The purpose of the committee is to develop formal ideas of what we want to do with the park for biking/walking, etc.

Sustainable Jersey: We got back 8 actions they want us to revise. We need to prove we advertised the companion animal pledge to various departments within town government. They didn't accept the mayor's wellness campaign for Sustainable Jersey, because they didn't have the latest actions, so Carole got them a report of 29 pages of actions in addition to the town employee wellness campaign.

Community Garden: The mayor & council gave the Methodist church a 30x30 plot laid out with Greg to expand the garden. The Methodist church got a grant to do this. There's a sign, stake, and screws ready to go in. Sue was there with Rose Peligri, the fence representative, the irrigation expert, and the landscaper. It was a productive meeting, and it's a wonderful space. Irrigation will be easy because there's a water pipe that runs underneath. They're looking into a double fence to keep deer out. There will

be 4 irrigation zones on a timer to water in the morning. If budget allows, they want a trellis going over entrance to make it more pronounced. Sue was wondering if we need a larger opening to back a truck through. Rose said it had to be somewhat farther back from where it's staked out currently. May suggested: Drip irrigation? Organic plants? Sue said: Let's remember to bring that up because it's a good point.

The beds will be raised about 2'. Allison and the church will be the coordinator of the project. Sue suggested going through houses of worship (there are 7 in town) to get volunteers. The Methodist church is also the home site of the boy scouts, who have agreed to build the beds and trellis. Carole: If we could get some of the local nurseries to donate something like azaleas or other flowering shrubs to make the outside of the fences more attractive (split rail fences), that would be nice. We hope to have this on board by next May.

New Anti-Littering campaign: We have new signs – the request and idea came through the town council because of complaints from residents about littering. The focus is mostly on the fields – when the DPW goes to mow, they have to spend time picking up trash first. Now when kids sign up for sports, they'll have to go through a page on the website first that they shouldn't litter and reasons why. We're also trying to get coaches on board with the campaign, as this is all being done through the rec department. Signs will be at all the fields, and possibly on the exit ramps off 208. Also the flyer will go on the websites and will be at the EC booth as a handout.

Lana: (Bike trails) – N/A

Water (Mike) – N/A

Public Education and Outreach (Sue) – Franklin Lakes schools are starting a Sustainable Jersey committee and Carole was asked to be sitting on it with them. She'll be trying to work with the K-8 group.

Sue went to the Sustainable Jersey state conference this year in June. She met people from all over the state and heard about what they're doing. ANJEC is doing their yearly conference on September 30 – the topic is Responding to Climate Change Locally. Keynote speaker is Dr. David Robinson, state climatologist. Ann asked Sue to send a separate email about this.

FedEx has earthsmart packaging, and when you order things from companies by phone or online, you can request eco-friendly packaging.

Whole Foods takes corks to recycle into other things like flooring, etc., because there's a cork shortage.

Energy (Skip) – N/A

Recycling (Liz) – Tonnage is still going well. It averages about 100 tons per month, and the garbage tonnage is going down slowly. We need to have a bigger push in the next few months. We've been doing well, but have picked off the "low hanging fruit."

The amount of tonnage increased in 2016 from 2015, but the rate at which it's increasing is decreasing. Price per ton is going up, it's up to \$80/ton for a healthier revenue stream. Commingled was never affected. The scrap metal market had tanked, but it's back up a bit now to \$80/ton.

With the compliance stickers, we've identified 10 households that have received multiple stickers, so now they're getting a letter with the law, compliance program, etc.

Town Festival – we have reusable bags to give out, and need a better location this year (Ann will help with that). There will be a game wheel, free bags to give away, sorting the recycling/trash for kids to try, prizes. Cards to give out with info on what/how to recycle. We will be explaining that recycling is the law, and a value to the town too.

Clothing recycling bins: We get paid for what's picked up by weight. Fabric that's really awful is shredded into new fiber, second tier fabric is shredded for rags. Top tier clothes are sent to a secondhand clothing business in developing countries, top end stuff is salable here, and that money goes into teaching and farming programs in Africa and Latin America. Shoes go in that bin too. Planet Aid is a nonprofit, so the money is used in a positive way. We've had about 7 tons of material since February. Planet Aid has also done the same thing with books, and as of tomorrow, there will be a bin at DPW for book recycling. The books go to English speaking developing countries. May suggested: what about some volunteers coming to collect the books from people? Don: We can't give the impression we're a collection company. Ann: The benefit to Planet Aid is they are collecting and sending it to places that need.

Recycling (Don) – N/A

Planning Board (Gary) – N/A

Ann: She has been asked to refurbish the trust fund for memorial pond. There's a waterfall, pond, garden, piece of the WTC. There's a program on Sunday afternoon, 9/11/16. The pond is supported totally by tax deductible donations, and donors can give any amount. Franklin Lakes has 4 people who died in terrorist attacks – 3 on 9/11, one in Lockerbie, Scotland.

Old Business

N/A

New Business

N/A

Action Issues

N/A

The next meeting is set for September 19, at 7 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larissa Symbouras