

FRANKLIN LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

In Attendance: Carole Holden, Don Scine, Liz Morris, Ann Swist, Francesca Iacono, Gary Sheppard, Skip Williamson, Mike Kucharski, Sue Barbuto.

Absent: Michael Colombo, Larissa Symbouras, Lana King, Moira Murphy.

The regular September, 2016 meeting of the Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission called to order at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes from the August 15, 2016 meeting were approved.

Chair's Report: The chair reported that she and Liz Morris, the recycling coordinator have designed the EC booth for the Franklin Lakes Festival this coming Saturday, September 24. We will again have a performer dressed as Robby the Recycling Raccoon. He will be instructed to hand out card directing visitors to the EC booth, something he did not do well last year. Liz has fun facts and some games for the booth and some giveaways.

The chair stated that she has completed our application for recertification with Sustainable Jersey. Once we learn that Franklin Lakes has been recertified, the EC can turn its attention to broadening our scope of actions under the program to help us become even more sustainable.

The chair mentioned the proposed Franklin Lakes Community Garden on McBride Field. Nothing has been done except a sign posted marking the spot for "the future FL Community Garden. She hopes Reverend Philip and Rose Peligri will come in with some bids for fencing soon. Sue Barbuto has offered to work with Rose and Alison as she is a Master Gardener. Sue has suggested to Rose and Alison that they partner with other churches in town to build support for the work that will have to be done on the garden.

To date there is no news to report on the effects of the Anti-Littering Campaign which was undertaken this past month. Greg Hart will hold a meeting in October to discuss what is happening.

Member Reports:

Recycling: Liz Morris – Liz reported that Franklin Lakes is recycling up to 28% of its waste. The state has mandated 60%, so we are a long way from that. Ann suggested that we ask all the real estate agents in town to give new homeowners a collection bin as a way of educating new owners about the importance of recycling and the rules governing the program. The commission thought that was a very good idea. The new non-compliance sticker will be red instead of yellow as a way of getting non-recycling households to be aware of the consequences of not obeying the law.

Public Education and Outreach: Sue Barbuto – Sue reminded the commissioners that the annual meeting of ANJEC is Friday, September 30, 2016 and urged anyone who could to please make an effort to be there. She also promised to bring back the important ideas for those of us who cannot attend.

She also announced that the NYNJTC – the New York New Jersey Trail Conference is having an open house on Saturday, October 15, 2016 to show off its new headquarters and to bring the public up to date on what it is doing.

Parsons Pond Park: Mike Kucharski – He has been working with JORBA (Jersey Off Road Biking Association) to map out some possible bike routes in the new park. The chair announced that our borough administrator has set up a meeting of individuals representing various interests in the borough to develop ideas for the park. The meeting will try to set priorities for development of trails, the ball fields and biking.

Old Business: None

New Business: The chair brought up the issue of the changing rules regarding flood control measures from the state. They will lessen the protection towns have to prevent flooding. Gary added that he fears a water issue in Franklin Lakes because more lots with less than a full acre of buildable land are being developed. If the septic systems fail at any time, there is less space to rebuild safe and suitable systems. He feels this is a concern that should be monitored.

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

Next meeting – Monday, October 17, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Skip Williamson