

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, HUNTERDON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Established April 3, 1970

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Diane Burgess, Chair
Laney Britten, Vice Chair



Regular Meeting Minutes: Monday, July 26, 2021; 7:30 PM Via Zoom

I. Open Public Meeting Statement

“This meeting has been duly advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, 10:4-6 et seq. The annual schedule of board meetings has been published in the Hunterdon Democrat newspaper. Copies of the notice have been posted in the Township Municipal Building. This is a regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission.”

II. Call to Order and Roll Call

Name (Term Expires)	5/24/2021 Regular & Reorg	6/28/2021	7/26/2021	8/30/2021	9/27/2021	10/25/2021	11/29/2021				
Diane Burgess (3 year - 12/31/2021)	√	√	√								
John Bencoter (3 year - 12/31/2023)	√	√	√								
Laney Britten (3 year - 12/31/2023)	√	√	√								
John Thonet (3 year - 12/31/2021) LUB			√								
Vacant (3 year - 12/31/2022)											

Other attendees: Kevin Carroll, Christina Faragalla, Gail Hoolko

III. Comments from the Public

None

IV. Standard Business

1. Approval of minutes of 6/28/2021 Meeting of the Environmental Commission
 - Moved – John B, Seconded – Laney B, all in favor
 - Diane will have posted on Township website
2. Applications Referred by Land Use Board (None at this time)
3. Report on Land Use Board Activity (John Thonet) – quiet at this time
4. Township Committee activities (Diane Burgess) – nothing significant at this time

V. Old Business

1. Community Well Testing for 2021 (June 1 thru 8)
 - a. We are waiting info on who participated and results
 - b. Christina Faragalla volunteered to help with aggregating and analyzing data
2. Sustainable Jersey Certification renewal
 - a. Comments received; need to update by 9/15/2021
 - b. John Thonet asked to check out our submission and activities; Diane will add him to the site
3. Social Media
 - a. Diane will verify with Committee if a FaceBook page for the Environmental Commission that is info only with commenting turned off is acceptable. Laney is willing to host page if approved.
 - b. John B raised a concern that the new Township website does not have capability to send notification of changes to residents. He has reached out to the Township CFO to determine if we can add this capability. Diane will follow-up with Committee.
 - c. Webinar ideas should be included as links on the Environmental Commission page on the Township website

4. 2021 Goals Discussion and Plan of Action –
 - a. Discussion focused on having an Environmental Commission event
 - i. Since there is no plan for a Community Day this year, event could be tied to Earth Day 2022
 1. Possibly hold at new Municipal Building, current building, or Elks
 - ii. Topics would include:
 1. Single use plastics education with give-away of at least reusable shopping bags
 2. Maintaining wells and septic systems
 3. Highlighting green businesses in Franklin Township
 4. Gail also sent an email with a list of topics to add to “idea bank”
 - iii. Laney will set up a google doc “idea bank”
 1. Laney will follow-up with Municipal Clerk about where to host google docs for Environmental Commission on Township server
 - b. Single Use Plastic education program
 - i. Collaborate with Shoprite to co-brand shopping bags
 - ii. John B will take the lead on the shopping bags and will reach out to Shoprite, Amish market, Cracker Barrel; Christina will reach out to Walmart, Costco, BJs
 - c. Seminars/Workshops via Zoom
 - i. Gail sent an email with a list of topics to add to “idea bank”
 - ii. John T recommended using ANJEC as a resource
 - iii. Webinar links should be added to Env Comm page on Township website as they are made available
 - d. Waste management and recycling at the township level, possibly in conjunction with Raritan Headwaters
 - i. There was discussion of what the intent is for surveying the haulers and the purpose was agreed it was to educate the Env Comm on the haulers’ processes and procedures for pickup, recycling, disposal, etc.
 - ii. John B will set up google doc of potential questions to ask haulers
 - e. Terracycle
 - i. Laney forwarded multiple links; we will discuss in more detail at next meeting

VI. New Business

1. NJ Composting law
 - a. Kevin provided some background on the new law requiring redirection of food waste for large groups or organizations
 - b. Organizations in Franklin Township are probably Shoprite, Walmart, Cracker Barrel, Franklin Township School
 - c. Kevin will reach out to these organizations to see if they are aware of the law and if they need any help
 - d. We need to understand what is regulated and what could be done to help unregulated businesses or homeowners
 - e. Goal is to get educated, then educate the community

VII. Grant Opportunities

1. None

VIII. Adjournment at 9:14pm

1. Next meeting – Monday, August 30, 2021 at 7:30pm via zoom

Action Items

Item #	Action Item	Who's Responsible	Status	Status / Updates
20210628-01	Identify Shoprite contact used by Township	John T	Open	7/26/21 – John T will work with John B on potential contacts
20210628-02	Develop list of webinar ideas to share with team	Gail	Open	7/26/21 – Gail forwarded list of ideas which will be added to the “idea bank”. 7/26/21 – Once a list is developed, links should be added to the Township website’s Env Comm page
20210628-03	Forward info on Teracycling	Laney	Closed	6/29/21 – Laney forwarded email with multiple links to info on Terracycling. We will continue to pursue this in future meetings.
20210628-04	Draft survey to Trash Haulers in Township	John	Open	7/26/21 – John B will set up google doc with questions to pursue
20210628-05	Determine if Community Day is happening this year	Diane	Open	7/26/21 – No Community Day for 2021; Diane will find out about Trunk or Treat as well as what happened to corn hole games used at past Community Days
20210628-06	Determine our budget and how NJ Clean funds are being used	Diane	Closed	7/26/21 – Env Comm has \$1000 annual budget. Clean Communities funds could be used for reusable shopping bags if needed; these funds are used for various projects in the Township
20210628-07	Confirm appointees to remaining positions on Env Comm	Diane	Open	7/26/2021 – Diane will send Citizenship Form to Christina, Gail, and John T and will confirm all can be added as members of Commission as regular or alternate members
20210628-08	Obtain results of 2020 and 2021 Well Testing for Township	Diane	Open	7/26/2021 – Christina F will assist with aggregation and/or analysis of data
20210726-01	Add John T to Sustainable Jersey website	Diane	New	7/27/2021 – Diane added John T to site; John T will need to accept invitation
20210726-02	Can Township Website add capability to notify interested users when there are changes to the website	Diane	New	
20210726-03	Set up Google Doc “idea bank”	Laney	New	
20210726-04	Reach out to larger Township organizations to see if they are aware of the food waste redirection law and if they need any help	Kevin	New	