

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, May 23, 2022; 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)	1/31/2022 Regular & Reorg	2/22/2022*	3/29/2022*	4/25/2022 5/2/2022	5/23/2022*	6/27/2022	7/25/2022	8/29/2022	9/26/2022	10/31/2022	11/28/2022
Diane Burgess (3 year - 12/31/2022)	√	√	√	√	√						
John Benschoter (3 year - 12/31/2023)	√	√	√	√	√						
Laney Britten (3 year - 12/31/2023)	√	√		√	√						
John Thonet (3 year - 12/31/2024) – LUB	√	√	√	√	√						
Kevin Carroll (3 year - 12/31/2024)	√	√	√	√	√						
Christine Faragalla (alternate)		√			√						

Other attendees: Elizabeth Basile, Sandra Dagnall, Irv Taylor, Carol Loftus, Mia Baldwin, Frank Tota, Kathleen, Carol Loftus, Michael Kravace,

III. Comments from the Public

- Elizabeth Basile asked how many people participated in well testing – 59 which is much higher than in previous years
- Elizabeth Basile asked about Trash collection by Township, Diane will discuss with Township Committee

IV. Standard Business

1. Approval of minutes of 11/29/2021 Meeting, 1/31/2022 Reorg Meeting, 1/31/2022 Regular Meeting, 2/22 Regular Meeting, 3/29/2022 Regular Meeting, 5/2/2022 Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission
 - Tabled pending availability of minutes
2. Applications Referred by Land Use Board (None at this time)
3. Report on Land Use Board Activity (John Thonet)
 - Hearing coming up on minor subdivision of the lots next to the Municipal Building
 - Christina F questioned if large tree on property is of historic value and will pursue
4. Township Committee activities (Diane Burgess)
 - Committee meeting this Thursday 5/26/2022
 - Diane and Laney met with Superintendent Diaz from Franklin Township School re water issues and provided a summary of the meeting
5. Environmental Conferences and Opportunities
 - Sustainable Jersey Webinars
 - June 24: New Jersey Sustainability Summit – Bell Works 8:00am-4:00pm

6. Grant Opportunities

- **Sustainable Communities Grant Program:** This grant opportunity will support municipal environmental stewardship and resiliency projects. Program is for South Jersey – we do not qualify
- DEP Climate Solution Grants
 - Online tool to estimate how rainfall intensity will change. John T will raise issue with Land Use Board

V. Old/Ongoing Business

1. Community Well Testing for 2022
 - Still waiting for summary of results from Raritan Headwaters
2. Ink Cartridge recycling (Laney) – Advertising campaign
 - Post on website and Elizabeth to spread via FaceBook
3. Single Use Plastic education program (John B) – Advertising / education program
 - Links are on the website, recommend no further action at this time
4. Green Team for Capoolong Trail Maintenance (Elizabeth B) – new date of 6/4/2022
 - Lot of people getting involved; some parts are dangerous
 - John T to investigate why it is a wildlife management area

VI. New Business

- a. Control of non-native plants
 - Kevin C will take the lead to present info sometime this summer
 - Weed walks as a possible idea
 - Include suggestions for native plants and good pollinators
- b. Battery recycling
 - Kevin looked at what is available and cost is prohibitive at this time for Commission to sponsor anything. It could be looked at in future if costs come down.

VII. Tabled Items

- a. Logo for Environmental Commission
 - i. None of the schools' art departments are interested
- b. Environmental Commission event possibly tied to Earth Day 2022
- c. Seminars/Workshops via Zoom (Gail H)
 - i. Should put focus on a Recycling Education seminar for residents
- d. Rain garden and wildflower beds at new municipal building – could possibly get carbon credits (Kevin and Laney)
- e. Waste management and recycling at the township level, possibly in conjunction with Raritan Headwaters (John B)
 - i. What do we want to cover when we Survey Trash Haulers - need further discussion

VIII. Adjournment

- Next meeting – Monday 6/27/2022
- Reminder to check in on idea bank
 - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XxkJ9l_zvCzhhOCDzskLYWGIWQC9r41_MLrMsWR3s4Y/edit?usp=sharing