

Meeting Notes
Franklin Township Environmental Commission
June 27, 2022

Call to Order: John Bencoter, Laney Britten, John Thonet, Kevin Carroll

Other attendees:

Elizabeth Basile, Frank Tota, Jim Parker, Sharyn Sawczak, Bruce DeRites, Ingrid Taff, Aly Taff, Michael <__>, Kathleen <__>

Standard Business

- Missing Minutes
- Applications to LUB and Report on LUB: As reported during the May 3, 2022 meeting, request has been made to have all applications and reports to/of the LUB be shared with the Environmental Commission. Information not received as yet
- Township Committee activities: No report
- Environmental Conferences and Opportunities:
 - Kevin Carroll gave overview of a proposed presentation on pruning native plants ~ further information needed
 - Discussion of plant identification apps PlantNet and Google Lens
 - No outside conferences

Grant Opportunities

- None at this time

Old/Ongoing Business

- Community Well Testing:
 - Tripled community participation (59); credit to social media announcements
 - Information pertaining to 2021 Testing is sought
- Ink cartridges:
 - John B has checked and bin is filling up
 - Suggestion made to add another drop off spot ... possibly building a "house" for it to be located in south Franklin along John B's property. Elizabeth, Laney and John to investigate possibility
- Single use plastic education endeavor has been completed
- Capoolong Creek Green Team:
 - Review of notes sent to Commissioners by Elizabeth Basile

- Suggestions shared by Residents on additional volunteers ie., Boy Scouts as Jason Hearon (BLM) feels Resident participation is crucial to local projects

New Business

- ANJEC Stormwater Resolution: John Thonet unsure if our participation in having the Township Stormwater Management Resolution adapted would be beneficial at this late date (proposal was presented to Commission in February). If appropriate he will advise. Vote was unanimous for suggesting the Resolution to Town Committee. John Thonet will follow through
- Information requested from Residents on updated Master Plan 2019 and its requirements pertaining to Climate Change
*Received updated Master Plan 2019 6/28; Resident sent Plan to attendees via email
- REQUEST TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE issue Resolution for Green Team and its participants:
 - Elizabeth Basile
 - Frank Tota
 - Ingrid Taff

Goal is to restore Capoolong Creek Trail to a safe and secure resource for Residential use

- Rogers Pond
 - Resident concern about the state of the grounds and water
 - Document sent to Commissioners on Friday June 24th of previous NJDEP involvement and Sustainable Jersey funded Feasibility Study by Princeton Hydro
 - Photos were shared pre-meeting, taken that day
 - Action requested to ask Township about obligation to perform 4-year inspection as per NJDEP requirement in 2000
 - Pond water quality may be hazardous; recommend testing for acceptable bacterial levels
Cyanobacteria: (They) form the base of the food web of freshwater ponds and streams that flow into coastal estuaries and the ocean but, occasionally, they grow rapidly in fresh water and form scums or mats in the water. Some blooms can produce toxins harmful to people and animals.
- Initiative moving forward: EV placement at new municipal building

Meeting adjourned