

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, February 27, 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)	1/16/2023 Special & Reorg	1/30/2023	2/27/2023	3/27/2023	4/24/2023	5/22/2023*	6/26/2023	7/31/2023	8/28/2023	9/25/2023	10/30/2023	11/27/2023
Diane Burgess (3 year - 12/31/2025)	√	√	√									
John Benscoter (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: Bruce DeRites, Frank Tota, Elizabeth Basile, Cheryl Anderson

III. Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only

- Elizabeth Basile raised questions related to the Solar Farm application and whether EC members had been to the site.
- Bruce DeRites raised the issue of having solar system guidelines.

IV. Applications Referred by Land Use Board

1. Solar Farm on Croton Rd – EC report sent to LUB & applicant; hearing to be continued on March 8, 2023
 - New questions raised by the EC members to add to EC report:
 - When will ground cover be installed and how will they do the slit seeding
 - NJ law requires silt fence to be 6” below surface to minimize erosion – confirm this will be done
 - What requirements will be in the developer’s agreement
 - Diane will send a letter to the LUB requesting they provide all information to all parties including EC as soon as it is provided along with a summary or notation of what has changed

V. Standard Business

1. Approval of minutes of 8/29/2022, 9/26/2022, 10/31/2022, 11/28/2022 Regular Meeting and 1/16/2023 Reorg and Special Meeting and 1/30/2023 Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission – to be tabled until minutes available for review
2. Report on Land Use Board Activity (John Thonet) – no report
3. Township Committee activities – no report

VI. Old Business

1. Tree Recovery Campaign Distribution – application filed, pickup 4/20, distribution 4/22/2023

- John B will speak with Rick Roll regarding pickup and dropoff of saplings
 - Advertising will be same as last year in terms of location, signs, etc.
 - We will include well testing information at the distribution as well
 - Diane will provide a contact for local boy scouts to see if they can assist
2. Sustainable Jersey grant application –
 - Applications submitted for \$2000 and \$20,000 grants
 3. Township Vehicle Inventory – Diane and John B to follow up with CFO and Municipal Clerk

VII. New Business

1. ANJEC grants of up to \$1500 each for local stewardship projects – due 4/17/2023
 - Possible projects discussed included request for EC supplies such as a tent and signage as well as a study of a rain garden at the new municipal building. Laney will get quotes from Rutgers extension regarding the rain garden study
2. Possible future projects –
 - Updates to solar ordinance – discuss at next meeting
 - Education programs on rain barrels, green roofs, rain gardens, wildflower meadows, and solar options

VIII. Information on Conferences and Grants

1. Environmental Conferences and Opportunities
 - Dams & Dam Removals in NJ – Wednesday, Feb 1st 7:00pm, North Country Branch Library (hclibrary.libcal.com to register)
 - ANJEC Virtual Seminar: Environmental Commission Powers & Responsibilities - Tuesday, March 21, 7:00pm
 - ANJEC Virtual Seminar: Creating/Updating a Municipal ERI/NRI - Wednesday, March 22nd, Noon
 - ANJEC Virtual Seminar: The New Stormwater Permitting Rules, Stormwater Utility Planning - Wednesday, March 22nd, 7:00pm
 - ANJEC Virtual Seminar: Land Use: The Municipal Master Plan, Municipal Ordinances - Thursday, March 23rd, Noon
 - ANJEC Virtual Seminar: Site Plan Review, Green Infrastructure/Stormwater Plan Overview, Thursday, March 23rd, 7:00pm
 - ANJEC In-Person Session: *Advanced Environmental Commission Strategies & Networking* - Saturday, April 1, 10am-12:30pm: Fort Monmouth Recreation Center
 - Green infrastructure program through Rutgers
4. Grant Opportunities
 - ANJEC grants of up to \$1500 each for local stewardship projects – see above

IX. Additional Comments from the Public

- EDIT group would like support from EC on their proposal for solar on the Municipal Buildings

X. Adjournment

- Moved by John B, Seconded by Kevin, all in favor at 9:15pm
- Next meeting – Monday 3/27/2023
- Reminder to check in on idea bank
 - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XxkJ9l_zvCzhhOCDzskLYWGIWQC9r41_MLrMsWR3s4Y/edit?usp=sharing