

March 22, 2021 Environmental Commission Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brandt, M. Duerr, McCarthy, Mounier, Stippick, Tinney
MEMBERS ABSENT: Doherty
ALTERNATES ABSENT: Cavone, Link
LIAISONS ABSENT: Doyle, Flaim
GUESTS: R. Duerr, B. Halpern, and A. Wheeler.

The March 22, 2021 meeting of the Township of Franklin Environmental Commission was called to order by Mr. Stippick at 7:30 pm as a virtual meeting on ZOOM.

I. Minutes

The February 22, 2021 Minutes required a correction: In the section on Malaga Lake (VII. B. 4.), it was Barbara Doherty that was investigating the cost and vendors for signage at the start of the Malaga Lake Park nature trail, rather than Barbara Halpern. With that correction and upon a motion by Ms. Duerr, seconded by Mr. Tinney, the minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting were approved.

II. Emergency Response and Management Report: There was no Emergency Management report.

III. Zoning and Planning Board Applications: There were no Zoning or Planning Board applications.

IV. Old Business

A. Piney Hollow:

1. Ms. Halpern reported that she has not spoken to the CME engineer lately and had no report.
2. Mr. Stippick reported that he has been at the Preserve and that the hunting stand that has been in the trees since December 2019 got moved down the trail about 100 yards. Mr. Stippick printed out the ordinance prohibiting hunting, got it laminated, and attached it to the tree stand. Later, he found that the stand had been removed.
3. The Jersey barriers at the entrances are back in place.
4. Mr. Stippick also reported that the trails have been drying out. It appears that someone has been doing a bit of maintenance. At the third dike the water level is quite low and it seems more like the original conditions. The first and second dams are in very poor shape with large holes in them. Mr. Stippick also put out more brochures at the parking lot and tacked a map to a tree there.
5. Someone has purchased the Girl Scout property across Piney Hollow Road and is planning to replace the dam and culvert, as required by NJDEP. We don't know the new owner at this time.

B. Malaga Lake Park:

1. Barbara Doherty has shared sign price and proposals with Nancy Kennedy for the Community Development grant, which is nearly complete.

B. Cleanups: Our Watershed Ambassador, Marcello Garcia, is not available for a weekend cleanup in April and Mr. Stippick is not available in May. It was agreed that we need Mr. Garcia and anyone he can recruit, so we will need to do the cleanup in June. Malaga Lake Park was the planned target but Mr. Stippick advised that there is a lot of trash along Piney Hollow Road, near the Preserve, that needs to be cleaned up. It is a more difficult site, however, with a lot of growth and little shoulder for volunteers to work in.

The need for a cleanup at Franklinville Lake was also mentioned.

Mr. Brandt suggested that we find out about prisoner cleanups. We will need to determine who to contact to find out whether this is going on. The pandemic put a stop to that work but it may begin again in the spring.

VIII. New Business:

A. 2021 Projects: A brief discussion ensued about possible projects. Ms. McCarthy emailed the list of potential projects that the EC might want to undertake, in 2021 and later, to all EC members and guests. Those present expressed support for the plastic bag collection project and the possibility of obtaining a free bench from such a collection. We will need to reach a large number of people, using other groups contacts and via the facebook pages. A brochure about plastic alternatives should be developed at the same time as we are developing an email list. Our exhibit at Community Day in 2019 was about that subject, so we have a good start on the information needed.

Other projects that were favored were promotion of compost bins, perhaps in spring 2022, holding another rain barrel workshop, and establishing a memorial bench program for our parks. The latter project would require Township Committee agreement and involvement.

B. Meeting Conflicts: Mr. Brandt is likely to have further conflicts with School Board meetings but wanted everyone to know that he can be contacted at any time on any matter, especially to convey anything to the Planning Board. He will get a definitive schedule of School Board meetings. The EC can then consider shifting its meeting dates, if practical

C. Other: Mr. Brandt also advised that Franklin Township will be receiving \$1.6 million from the Stimulus package.

IX. Mail Review/Announcements/Conferences:

A. Mail: There was no mail.

B. Announcements: Mr. Wheeler reported that he had attended one of ANJEC's virtual training seminars. The notice about them has been sent to everyone. The program is "2021 Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions" and the webinars are held on Saturdays and Tuesdays. Email ANJEC (info@anjec.org) for details and to register.

X. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ms. Duerr, seconded by Mr. Brandt, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne McCarthy
EC Vice-Chair
Acting as Secretary for the Environmental Commission