

August 12, 2018

Frenchtown Environmental Commission and Sustainable Frenchtown Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Environmental Commission meeting 7 - 7:30

Commissioners present-- Joel Boriek, Chair; Jim Meade, Margaret Waldock, Tom Woodruff, Rocco Musolino

Absent: Pete Palac, John Mizin

Sustainable Frenchtown meeting 7:30 - 8:45

Present: Joel Boriek, Jim Meade, Tom Woodruff, Rocco Musolino, Leigh Marino, Mara Tippet, Lynn Hutchins, Erika Rachel,

Location: Frenchtown Borough Hall

Meeting Agenda

Topic/Issue		Facilitator	Time
Environmental Commission meeting (commissioners required to attend, others welcome)	Agenda items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and introductions to new people Oil spill at Ceramics Plant - what do we know? 	Joel Boriek, et al	7 pm
Sustainable Frenchtown meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and introductions to new people Well test day Year of Water idea RiverFest! Brainstorming and planning Hunterdon Creative Team update Other ideas and interests 	Margaret Margaret and Mara Margaret Leigh All	7:30 pm
Sustainable Jersey Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2019 Recertification planning Subcommittee? 	ALL	8:30 pm
Misc.	Anything else we want to share	ALL	

August 12, Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
Called to order at 7:10

Discussion and updates on Bridge street fire, water conservation announcement

Oil spill at Ceramics Plant -- Commission discussed the Mayor's announcement yesterday regarding oil spill from an underground tank at the Ceramics Plant. The NJDEP and County HazMat teams were out at the sight, oil contained though some was discharged into the river. The Licensed Site Remediation Specialist will update the Borough Council at their next meeting in September.

Update on grant from ANJEC -- planned to utilize funds to fix drainage problems at bridge at Frenchtown Preserve to improve access. We secured donated materials, and are waiting for State Parks to okay work at the preserve, they've also not responded to the management memo of agreement, which they've had for 5 months, our attorney has already signed off on it. Jim and Joel have completed the required annual management report for the Preserve and will drop off at Bull's Island as part of our agreement.

Binghamman Property easement Block 19, Lot 27 (Alexandria twp.) -- Joel and Jim will monitor this fall and share report with Hunterdon Land Trust. But notice that the owners may have provided access to Penn-East Pipeline, there is activity on site that indicates a construction access point. In the past, we've shared concerned with NJDEP Green Acres program as to compliance with the conservation easement on the property. Joel will take picture of the activity and call Kevin Appelget at NJDEP GA legal enforcement program to share information and inquire as to what the process is for state easement encumbered properties to give access to pipeline companies.

Plan is to direct funds from the 2018 EC budget to support fencing in the Frenchtown preserve to repair our deer enclosure that was destroyed by a tree. Should we combine this with a public hike and preserve volunteer day in the fall? Jim and Joel will discuss and report to EC at next meeting.

Sustainable Frenchtown:

Meeting started at 7:45 pm

Welcome and introductions to new participant, Lynn Hutchins.

Well testing day: Report from Mara Tippet, Kingwood Green Team/Upper Raritan Watershed Association

Mara shared the flier for the well test day she developed and members took copies to distribute throughout town, she will also share a digital version we can put on website and distribute through social media -- Kingwood is promoting in their website as well

Details: Schedule test kit purchase and pick up day -- Frenchtown Borough Hall on September 22nd. Drop of day September 25th, two locations, Frenchtown Borough Hall and Kingwood Township building.

Mara may need assistance on drop off days, but depends on how many kits are sold. She also may need access to the building on purchase and pick up days, Joel will be the contact with her.

Mara will get us a press release to distribute -- put on Borough website, Frenchtown Facebook Page, and send to the Hunterdon County Democrat, and Mara will reach out to WDVR.

Jim will distribute fliers throughout town.

Success in Mara's view is getting 2 - 5% of well owners in a community -- for us that would be 10 private well owners, and she'd like to see more testing for lead for people on public water supply.

Frenchtown has a total of 92 private wells.

Mara will email digital flier to Margaret to distribute to the members

Riverfest--

Opportunity for launch of thematic "year of water" for Sustainable Frenchtown! Plus bike valet and distribution of other information

Ideas:

Display a rain barrel, with information from Rutgers, sign up sheet for people who are interested in taking one of the extra barrels from DPW and assembling at their house (Rocco will bring his, Joel will assemble Rutgers info and create a sign up sheet)

Macro-invertebrate tank -- to discuss "bugs" and indicators of water quality (Mara -- will bring) Do we need electricity for the tank bubbler?

Well testing day promotion -- print out fliers, and have American Water quality report for those on public water

Develop a water survey, with a button give away for those who participate.

Margaret will bring button maker, will share software with Leigh so she can design pre-made button messages

Water Bar (maybe next year)

Creative Team:

Leigh -- working with Hunterdon Cultural Commission and Environmental Connection to transfer the CAI; but they need us to build a database, which the county cannot. There is a grant opportunity for us to apply for as a Hunterdon County HUB project -- Leigh wants to apply for a grant to hire somebody to do this. Susan Mania of Environmental Connection to assist with the database, but Leigh's has not heard back from her. Grant application due October 7th -- has to be a collaborative project that gets us points for Sustainable Jersey certification. Margaret suggested Leigh contact SJ to confirm that as we still have an open application for certification, will not submit until next year, that this may be added to the Creative Assets Inventory project, since we haven't technically gotten "points" yet for that.

There also seems interest in town on exploring plastic bag ban. We discussed a survey about plastics reduction to a river clean up, to make link between water pollution and use of single use plastics, and using our new relationship and membership with business association to build partnership with local businesses.

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Fall river clean up -- we can organize in conjunction with Real Girls -- opportunity to gather information about plastics

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM