

**PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Meeting of September 30, 2009– 7:30pm**  
**Meeting Room A**  
**Township Municipal Building**  
**400 Witherspoon Street, Princeton**

**I. Opening Statement**

Adequate notice of this meeting as required by Sections 3d and 4a of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided and filed with the Township and Borough Clerks.

**II. Vice Chair Wolanin opened the meeting at 7:36 p.m.**

Present were: Hiltner, Wasserman, Wolanin, Machold, Eiref, Rojer, Lempert and Madison  
Absent were: Kaczerski, Bass, Reeves, Roberts and Trelstad

There was 1 member of the public present.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The July minutes were tabled until the October meeting to give everyone ample time to review them.

**IV. Public Comment:**

Joan Magee of the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed said she wanted to make the PEC aware of an application that was taking place in West Windsor. She said there is a proposal to build graduate housing for the Seminary off of Canal Point Boulevard. She said they are concerned because there is much more than housing being built and that area has a tendency to flood as it is; the proposal includes removing 14 acres of trees. She said there is some concern over the buffer and it not being adhered to. She said she wanted to let the PEC know because it is right on the border of West Windsor and Princeton and she didn't know if the PEC wanted to weigh in on it. She said the meeting is being held on October 5, 2009 at the West Windsor municipal building. Wolanin suggested that as a group, the PEC write something about the potential flooding impact this application may have on Princeton Township. Magee noted that this proposal will also need County approval and will also need the Delaware Raritan Canal Commission approval.

**V. Discussion:**

- a) Structuring the agenda for active discussion and decisions:  
Wasserman stated that he wanted to have a discussion with the group to see if how to structure the agendas. He said there is a lot of time spent on reporting as opposed to how we can make changes and make a difference. Wolanin said the group can report on and how to manage goals and make them more concrete. Machold suggested that the group has been more re-active than pro-active and she doesn't feel everyone is working as a group. She suggested that the PEC is taking on too much. Lempert suggested that each person work on their individual goals and the PEC have one focus as a group. Wasserman suggested the PEC take a step back and see what the common goal is for the year. Hiltner suggested verifying the goals a little better. He said one of his goals is recycling yet there are people being paid to take on recycling in the municipalities. He said the township has yet to respond to the recycling fact-finding document the PEC sent to them. He asked if the leaf ordinance is being enforced. Again, it's a matter of getting information from the township and borough to find out what they are doing Wasserman said the PEC should be discussing how to get through road blocks like that. Lempert said that Township Committee has had discussions over the Princeton Ridge Reserve resolution. Madison said there will be no change in

zoning there so he suspects the Regional Planning Board will endorse that. Lempert suggested that the PEC be pro-active in acquiring money to help acquire the land in the Ridge. Wasserman suggested that the issue of goals be discussed at the October meeting. He suggested each person discuss which one or two goals they feel they can handle and then a few goals that the PEC as a whole should attack.

b) **PEC goals and progress:**

There was a question about whether there should be an ordinance that requires bagging of leaves put out on the curb.. Wasserman said he and Hiltner met with Trelstad about it and they are hoping she will get the Borough to consider changing the current ordinance. Hiltner said some people are stuck on the idea of what might happen if it is mandated yet most people he has discussed it with do not seem to have a problem. Wasserman stated that there are other Townships that have this ordinance and the residents are forced to meet it. He said the current leaf ordinance is not enforced and it is still causing a problem. Eiref asked why residents are not being ticketed anymore for not abiding by the ordinance. Hiltner said there should be some organization that provides municipalities with data on various methods of dealing with leaves, so that each town doesn't have to do its own research. He said the current ordinance is not working. Wolanin asked if the Public Works has the power to ticket or if it is a responsibility of the Police. Lempert said she would be looking into it. Lempert suggested writing a letter to the Town Topics on how leaves can be used on ones property. Machold said the public needs to become aware that the leaves affect the flooding issue. Hiltner stated that education will go along with the ordinance. Wolanin said he will formulate a resolution to send to both municipalities with an argument on the leaf bagging ordinance and how it should be enforced. He said the ordinance will not come into effect this year anyhow, but the PEC can send a resolution endorsing it. Hiltner also suggested that each town be asked to keep track of how money is spent on leaf pick-up and enforcement. Lempert said she will discuss this with the appropriate people. She also suggested that the PEC gather information on how much money other municipalities have saved with this type of ordinance. Wolanin said he will come up with a resolution for next months meeting.

c) **Review of the Township response to the Mountain Lakes Dam Restoration Project:**

Hiltner said that the Township did address most of the issues. He said one positive outcome in the township response is that the project will include enhancement of aquatic habitat after the construction. Wasserman applauded Hiltner's response to the initial presentation made by the Township.

d) **Borough SPRAB liaison:**

Wolanin volunteered to be the liaison until the reorganization meeting in January.

**VI. Business:**

a) **Chairs report:** The chairs report was tabled as Kaczerski was not present.

b) **Reports on focus areas:**

i. **Sustainable Princeton:**

Wasserman stated that this group has been very busy over the summer. He described some of the events that are/will be taking place such as the Hometown Princeton Shop Local initiative spearheaded to get folks to shop local. He said over 40 stores have put money together to create a marketing initiative for this

and he encouraged support of this initiative. He said another project – Filtering the Green Noise, is to educate the residents about the green initiative and they will be having a discussion group about this on October 17, 2009 at the Suzanne Paterson Center to clear up the misconceptions about green initiatives and explain what it is. He encouraged the PEC to let their neighbors and friends know about this. He also said the Jewish Center had a Back to School Green Festival and he had a table about leaf composting.

- ii. **Parks and Natural Resources:** Hiltner had nothing to report.
- iii. **ERI Status:** Wolanin asked if the PEC needed to make any recommendations. Hiltner said that Lee Solow is worried that if the ERI becomes part of the Master Plan then every time it is updated the Master Plan would need to be also and it can become quite laborious. Madison explained that the Regional Planning Board would want to review the ERI every time it was updated to make sure it doesn't conflict with any of the zoning. He said that is what the subcommittee is doing right now. Hiltner said that Lee Solow wants the PEC to adopt it tonight then get it finalized. He said the subcommittee can be provided with a digital copy if they would like. Madison said the subcommittee is not looking to make revisions they just want to make sure there are no conflicts. He said a digital copy can be provided to them. A motion was made by Hiltner and seconded by Wasserman to adopt the ERI with final edits and recommend to the Planning Board that it be added as an appendix to the Master Plan. The Commission voted unanimously to adopt the ERI as stated by Hiltner.
- iv. **Green Home and Garden Tour:** Wasserman said they are struggling to get folks for the Green Home and Garden Tour and asked if anyone knew of anyone that may want to participate to please have them get in touch with either he or Reeves.
- v. **Friends of Princeton Open Space:** Hiltner said they will be holding their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary party on October 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Mountain Lakes and encouraged all to attend.
- vi. **Recycling and Leaf Management:** Hiltner reported that he and Diane Landis are working on arranging a tour of a recycling plant. Wasserman said that Palmer from Princeton University would be contacting Hiltner about a recycling survey. Hiltner mentioned that the PEC is still awaiting a response from the Township on the recycling fact-finding request that was sent out a few months back. Lempert said she will follow up.

## VII. Reports:

- a) **Shade Tree Commission:** Eiref explained that the proposed Shade Tree Ordinance has left that commission and will be going to Township Committee this month. She said the Shade Tree Commission has completed all of its revisions. Magee said the Mayor Miller is working on this and wants to get through all of the loopholes that were in the Jackson Ordinance so that the ordinance will be valid under the Municipal Land Use Law. There was a brief discussion about tree banking and replacing trees along the lake at Smoyer Park.
- b) **Recreation:** Wolanin said he received an email from Roberts stating that the Parks and Recreation Board will be discussing the PEC request for a Parks Director. He said Koontz from the Borough will be getting a focus group together to discuss this however, Nemeth said that any serious conversation about this would depend on consolidation. Lempert also noted that the syn-

turf issue was slated to be discussed at the next joint meeting of the Borough and Township however it has been postponed.

- c) **Health Commission report:** Rojer said the Commission is working on the H1N1 vaccinations and how to organize it. He said the Commission received an \$88,000 grant for the administration and reporting on the vaccines.
- d) **Flooding and Storm-water Management:** Lempert noted that the Townships storm-water consultant Joe Scupien will be reviewing the ordinance. She suggested that the PEC have a role in the community outreach part of storm-water management. She said any changes to the ordinance will affect new homes and additions not existing structures. Machold said she recently went on a tour of 59 Meadowbrook Road and the house is destroyed from flooding. She inquired about the Harry's Brook culvert. Lempert said that the metal lining has deteriorated and the Township Officials are worried about the road caving should a heavy truck travel the road. Machold said the August flood was a catalyst for many issues regarding flooding in the Township. Lempert suggested that someone draft a letter to the papers on what the PEC recommends especially with the leaf season approaching. Wolanin said he will work on a letter from the PEC maybe titled "How you can help mitigate flooding by controlling leaves". A motion was made by Wolanin and seconded by Machold to write the letter to the papers.
- e) **Correspondence:** Wolanin mentioned that on October 17<sup>th</sup> ANJEC will be holding a meeting at Rutgers for anyone who wants to attend,
- f) **Storm Water Coordinator:** Magee discussed the responsibilities of the Storm Water Coordinator and encouraged the PEC to find out who that was in the Township and the Borough. Lempert said she would look into to on the Township side.

**VIII. Adjournment:**

**A motion was made by Wasserman and seconded by Hiltner to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Debra Rogers, Acting Secretary**

**Date Approved:** October 2009