

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting of November 18, 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. Chair Kaczerski opened the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

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

There was 1 member of the public present.

III. Minutes:

a) September 30, 2009

A motion was made by Machold and seconded by Reeves to approve the minutes of September 2009 and the Commission voted unanimously to approve them.

b) October 28, 2009

A motion was made by Wolanin and seconded by Hiltner to approve the minutes of October 2009 and the Commission voted unanimously to approve them.

IV. Public Comment:

There were no members of the public present at this time that wanted to comment.

V. Discussion and Decisions:

- a) Introduction of new PEC member Kirsten Thoft. Kaczerski introduced Ms. Thoft and welcomed her to the PEC. Ms. Thoft briefed the PEC on her professional qualifications and personal history. She also discussed the workshop that she is organizing in the Borough regarding older homes and how to make them more efficient and “greener”.
- b) PEC Budget: Kaczerski said the with regards to the 2008 budget – Low Carbon Diet books and Leaf Brochures have been purchased. She inquired about the energy meters. Hiltner stated that there is a new generation of meters that seem to be more efficient than the TED meters and wondered if that was something the PEC wanted him to purchase. It was decided that the older meters would be more advantageous because the homeowners could install it themselves. It was decided that Mr. Hiltner would purchase the meters by the December 11th deadline for the budget. Kaczerski said in regards to the 2009 budget the Sustainability Coordinator has submitted a proposal to pilot a Home Energy

Audit program. She said she was in support of this however she was a bit skeptical of the January 2010 deadline and wanted to extend that to February 28, 2010. She said the proposal was for an Energy Audit of 6 homes and 2 businesses. The PEC discussed the number of contractors that would be performing this audit. Kaczerski noted that the Board of Public Utilities has a list of companies that have been approved to do this work. A motion was made by Wolanin and seconded by Reeves to approve this proposal with the amendment that the deadline is extended from January 2010 to February 28, 2010; The Commission voted unanimously to approve this proposal. Kaczerski asked if anyone had suggestions on how the remaining money in the budget should be sent. She asked if more leaf brochures were needed. She also noted that she hopes that the leaf Management Committee will work with the DPW to get the leaf brochures out there and to the residents. She suggested that this is done strategically and before the peak of the leaf season. Machold suggested that this be made a priority right now as the leaves are falling. Hiltner noted that the brochures should be given out prior to the leaf season; he said once the leaves are cleaned up it will no longer be a priority to the residents. Kaczerski asked about the remaining money left in the budget and how it should be spent. Wolanin suggested purchasing several TED meters to distribute to residents. He suggested looking for volunteers who want to install the meters and have them keep a diary of their energy usage. He said the recipients of the meters would have to commit to the program as the PEC will be using the results for public education. A motion was made by Wolanin to work in conjunction with Sustainable Princeton to find 4 homeowners who would be willing to install the TED meter for a 3 month period and then share their energy bills from before and after the meter is installed; all information gathered would be used for public information. Thoft seconded this motion and the Commission voted unanimously to use the remaining money in the budget (not to exceed \$900.00) to purchase 4 meters for this project.

Two members of the public arrived to discuss the flooding issue and Chair Kaczerski moved the order of the agenda in order to accommodate this person. The two people present were Mark Solomon of the law firm Pepper Hamilton, and Steve Hitzel of Westminster Choir College.

- VI. Flooding and Storm Water Management:** Kaczerski discussed the Westminster Choir College application saying there was a specific concern over the parking lot. Hiltner said he had heard that the stage was flooded at the High School during the last storm in August and that the area surrounding the High School and the college is not properly draining. Kaczerski asked the PEC if they thought that the PEC should weigh in on this application at this point in time. Machold suggested that flooding and storm water should be handled by the Flooding and Storm Water Management Subcommittee of the Township. She said they do not meet often but she would look into it and see if they are taking a position on this matter. She said she would email the PEC and give them an update on it. Kaczerski suggested that the PEC not take a position on this matter and let the Planning Board handle this at the December 3rd

meeting. Mr. Solomon said that the college is working to install a drainage system to take care of the water. He said the applicant also has a full storm water management plan that will be presented at the Planning Board level. He said as far as the concern by the neighbors that the applicant will be intruding into their backyards, the applicant is very sensitive to this concern as well as all the other concerns of the neighbors. Kaczerski thanked the applicant and Mr. Solomon and said the PEC would not be taking a position at this time.

VII. Discussion and Decisions: (continued)

- a) **Leaf Management Committee:** Kaczerski said she sent out an email asking for volunteers from the PEC to serve on the Leaf Management Committee; and those that responded were Machold, Hiltner, Wasserman, Rojer and Trelstad. She noted that if more than 4 voting members were going to be present at the meetings then the meeting needed to be noticed to the public. She made a motion to form the Leaf Management Committee consisting of members Machold, Hiltner, Wasserman, Rojer and Trelstad and whereas replacements to the committee can only be made by the Chair. The motion was seconded by Bass and the Commission voted unanimously to form this Committee.
- b) **Nominating Committee:** Kaczerski noted that Reeves and Wasserman would be serving on this committee. She also noted that she will not be seeking the Chair's position in 2010. Bass also noted that she will not be seeking another term on the PEC. Wolanin encouraged Bass to stay involved. Kaczerski thanked Bass for all that she has done for the PEC.
- c) **PEC Goals for 2010:** Kaczerski said that she would like to move this item to the end of the agenda as she thinks it will take some time. Wolanin asked if the PEC should be discussing this without Wasserman as he has spearheaded this discussion in the last couple months. Kaczerski said she spoke with Wasserman and he felt comfortable with her going ahead with the discussion without him.

VIII. Updates and Regular Business:

- a) **Chair's Report:** Kaczerski said the only item she wanted to mention was the new legislation regarding Board members attendance was received and reviewed by the Commission members.
- b) **Reports from Focus Areas:**
 - i. **Parks/Natural Resource Management:** Hiltner said with regard to the ERI, that the DVRPC is in the process of putting the document through a rigorous review process and it completed document should emerge within the next couple of months. Kaczerski asked Hiltner to send a letter of transmittal to Lee Solow stating that the PEC had adopted the ERI with the recommendations to be made as an appendix to the Master Plan. Hiltner agreed to send this letter of transmittal. Wolanin said with regards to the Parks Director position that he had a meeting with Koontz and Finkelstein to discuss what the next steps might be. He said Finkelstein is in the process of forming the Princeton Parks and Recreation Foundation to support things like the new pool, parks etc. He said right now it is not clear where the funding would come for the Parks

Director; however Koontz did say that the governing bodies would not be looking favorable towards this position if it was not funded.

- ii. **Leaf Management:** Kaczerski mentioned that the letters that appeared in the “Letter to the Editor” section of the papers had her name as the author because she is the Chair, and that she is forwarding all complements to Steve Hiltner, who wrote the letter. She asked that the Leaf Management Committee report back to the PEC in December. Hiltner was designated to get the first meeting of the Committee going until and Chair and Vice Chair would be appointed.
- iii. **Sustainable Princeton:** She said the mayors have decided to form an Advisory Committee for Sustainable Princeton. She noted that Sustainable Princeton will be seeking a 501 c3 designation as a non-profit organization. She said the Princeton Regional School Board has formed a Sustainable committee that will be looking into using solar energy to heat the water in the schools, among other initiatives. She said Diane Landis is working with parents in each school to form “Green Teams”. **Sustainable Princeton leadership Awards:** Wolanin said he has not heard back from Breithaupt and Sinden declined to work on the Committee. He said the subcommittee will meet to establish selection criteria, select awardees and present them to the PEC at the December 16 meeting for a vote.

c) **Reports:**

- i. **Princeton Shade Tree Commission:** No report other than the fact that Township Committee will be voting on the Tree Ordinance at its November 23rd meeting. Wolanin asked if the new ordinance would apply to the Westerly Road Church application. Madison said it thought it would not because the applicant filed the application prior to the adoption of the tree ordinance but suggested contacting Ilene Cutroneo in the Planning Board for verification. Machold noted that the Township Committee will be voting on the tree ordinance and also having a work session on Leaf Management.
- ii. **Princeton Regional Recreation: No Report**
- iii. **SPRAB:** No report. The November meeting was canceled.
- iv. **Princeton Regional Health Commission: No Report**
- v. **Flooding and Storm Water Management: Discussed earlier in the meeting.**

IX. **Discussion and Decisions: (continued)**

- a) **PEC Goals for 2010:** Kaczerski said she reviewed the PEC’s 2009 goals and said the Commission should feel very good about what they have accomplished in 2009. She said the Commission should come up with a list of priorities based on guiding principles for 2010 and then develop goals from there. She said each

member's time is limited but the suggestions are there to be guiding principles on the work that needs to be done. Wolanin noted that the members of the Commission wanted to include more specific goals that energy can be put into. He said sometimes it feels as though they work so much on a subject but nothing is fully accomplished. He suggested that the PEC look at goals that will definitely be addressed and others that they think they should bypass. Kaczerski suggested that the PEC choose goals strategically, according to community priorities. Wolanin suggested coming up with the top 6 or 8 goals and then bring them back to the meeting in December to vote on them. The PEC held a lengthy discussion on the topic – each member giving examples of what they personally feel is very important and would like to work on in the coming year. These issues included parks and open space resources, climate change, leaf composting, improving natural habitats, hospital redevelopment site, public outreach and zoning changes. Wolanin noted that the PEC role is not necessarily to be movers and shakers but to be an advisory board. He said a key role of the PEC is to maintain an interaction with the governing bodies on issues of interest to the PEC. Kaczerski said she would like to see a better tie-in between the PEC and Sustainable Princeton and across-pollination with the Sustainable Princeton Working Groups. She said she will write this discussion up and email it to everyone so that final goals are selected at the December meeting.

X. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Wolanin and seconded by Hiltner to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Rogers, Secretary

Date Adopted: December 16, 2009