

**PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Meeting of March 24, 2010– 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 Wasserman opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

Present were: Wasserman, Wolanin, Thoft, Hamilton, Machold, Hamilton, Roberts and Lempert – Hiltner arrived at 8:20 p.m.

Absent were: Kaczerski, Reeves, Eiref, Martindell

There was 1 member of the public present.

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

**IV. Minutes:**

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the minutes as written and presented.

**V. Public Comment:**

Mr. Van Cotter of the Ewing Township Environmental Commission said that the Ewing EC has started an initiative to reach out to other EC's and see what they are presently working on. He discussed what the Ewing EC is working on such as revising its ERI, redevelopment and documenting its trails.

**VI. Discussion/Decisions:**

- a) Zoning Board training: Wasserman stated that there will be a Zoning Board training session next month and suggested that the PEC devote the first ½ of its meeting to the training and then come back and finish the evening with PEC business. **(PLEASE NOTE: The Zoning Board training has always been scheduled for Monday 4/26/09 at 7:00 p.m. – it was never scheduled for Wednesday 4/28/10 – see notices on the website).** It was suggested that members attend the Zoning Board training to gain interest on the tear-down policy and zoning districts and possible changes. **(Please note, the Zoning Board enforces the policies that are implemented by the Planning Board and Township Committee, they do not have authority to make changes to the policies – they can make recommendations through its annual report,**

**but the changes need to be made through the Planning Board and/or Township Committee).**

- b) **PEC Members on the Planning Board:** Hamilton explained that Princeton has the only Regional Planning Board in the state and as such they need equal representation of Township and Borough members. In order to keep the Board functional it was decided (years ago) that the PEC seat was to be cut. Lempert noted that it was a bit more complicated – because it is regional should the PEC be Township or Borough or should in essence there be two PEC seats – one from the Township and one from the Borough. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that for right now as long as the PEC has representation on SPRAB and someone attends the Regional Planning Board meetings when the agenda warrants, it would be sufficient for right now.
- c) **TED Monitors:** Wolanin noted that Hiltner installed one of the monitors at Mountain Lakes to make sure everything was working properly before he reached out to anyone to test it. He noted that he will speak to Diane Landis about this and work out the logistics.
- d) **Earth Day Plans:** Wasserman handed out a flier of the Earth Day events. He said various organizations are sponsoring this event with Sustainable Princeton and the PEC also sponsoring the event.
- e) **Communiversity:** Wasserman said that Reeves was able to secure a table, and the PEC will be sharing it with Sustainable Princeton. He said there will be “green building” handouts, magnets, and possible some information on compost bins. He said Sustainable Princeton had spoken to the Borough and there will be signs at the event asking the patrons to recycle. Recreation will provide the table and chairs, and someone will need to let Jack Roberts know when they can be delivered.

## **VII. Updates and Regular Business:**

### **a) Chairs Report:**

- a) Wasserman said he spoke with Kathy Monzo about the money available in the budget and also about the money that the Recreation Department is holding. She said the money that is being held will be transferred over to the PEC budget. He asked the Commission members to think about ways in which the money can be spent this year.
- b) Wasserman said that Jack Connelly has been brought to New Jersey from Massachusetts to work on food waste recycling. Wasserman stated that he will be working with the local restaurants on this. Wasserman said he spoke with Diane Landis about business recycling and the lack there of. He said he is going to speak with the Borough Officials about it because the business owners are confused about the rules. He said he will provide an update to the PEC. Rojer noted that the local restaurants are interested in food waste recycling as long as it doesn't cost them more money.

- c) Wasserman noted that Jim Waltham's 2010 State of the Watershed report is out and it is a must read for PEC members. He said it is available on the Watershed website.
- d) Wasserman said it is critical that the members of the PEC share the burden of attending other meetings. He suggested that each member might sign-up for 2 meetings per year. He said that would cover all the meetings that need to be attended.
- b) **Update on PEC 2010 Goals:** Wasserman handed out the list of goals to the members. He noted that there has been another column added – Status/Detail. He asked each member to fill in a brief status update and send to Emily prior to the meetings. (Please note: Emily's new email address is – [ereeves@princeton-township.nj.us](mailto:ereeves@princeton-township.nj.us)) Please use that email. He also noted that the Green Home and Garden Tour is going to be tough to pull-off this year and asked for additional help from the members.
- c) **Reports on Focus Areas:**
  - a) **Parks/Natural Resources:** Hiltner noted that when he receives a digital copy of the ERI he will get it to the library and on the Township and Borough websites. Wasserman also suggested that someone discuss it at the next Environmental Film Festival to get the public more aware of it. Hiltner also noted that there was mass destruction from the last storm. He said there has been a loss of many trees. He said there will be a speaker at Mountain Lakes on May 6, 2010 to discuss different native species and some will be planted.
  - b) **Recycling:** Hiltner discussed the information that was received from the Borough and Township and how confusing the tonnage grant can be for some. Lempert said she will follow up on the Township side and Hiltner said he will follow up on the Borough side. He said there needs to be some accountability for the grant that the municipalities get. He said he will create a template for an understandable report and how the PEC wants the information.
  - c) **Leaf Management:** Wasserman stated that there have been over 250 responses so far; both online and through the mail. He said he will have the information inputted and should have a preliminary analysis for the PEC next month.
  - d) **Sustainable Princeton:** Wasserman said they will have information at Communiversiity about "how to build a compost bin".
  - e) **SPRAB:** Thoft reported that the Tiger Inn application was for an addition on the Prospect Avenue side. She said they were proposing a reduction in the Impervious Surface Coverage so they did not need storm water management on the site. She said she was confused because of all the storm water concerns lately and the SPRAB members also had the same concerns. She also attended the meeting where SPRAB reviewed the

Westerly Road Church plan. She said that SPRAB appreciated the memo from PEC and most of the conversation at that meeting surrounded that memo. She said they also discussed the water recharge tests that were performed. She said it is very important that a representative of PEC attend the Planning Board meeting to voice the PEC concerns. In the end she said it was the recommendation of SPRAB to approve the Westerly Road Church application.

**d) Reports from Liaisons:**

- a) **Shade Tree Commission:** Machold said there is a resident who is being fined for cutting down a number of trees and she will know more about after the next STC meeting. She said there was a lot of devastation after the last storm and the STC is evaluating that now. She also noted that the STC has a computer program that will document all of the street trees in the Township; Greg O'Neill is working on that now.
- b) **Recreation:** Roberts reported that there will be a townwide community meeting for review of the concept plan for the renovated pool. Mr. Roberts reiterated that there are plans to utilize many eco-friendly features such as solar panels and green roofs. The cost for some of the green concepts is unknown at this time, but it is Recreation's intention to utilize environmental technology to the fullest extent that they can. He also noted that there will be a public hearing in the future on synthetic turf. He said although Smoyer Park and Hilltop Park are not out of the running for the use of syn-turf, right now it looks as if the turf may be used at Farmview Park. He said that Recreation will have an initial meeting with the DEP and it appears that with an LOI and a wetlands demarcation, there would be a good chance for approval. Before Recreation can put together professional contracts for these items to be transacted, it will be necessary to have a public hearing on the issue.
- c) **Health Commission:** Rojer noted that the PRHC is still working with the local eating establishments on a rating system that must be displayed for the public. He also noted that he began some discussions with some of them about food waste recycling.
- d) **Flooding/Storm-Water:** Lempert noted that there will be a meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. with Joe Skupien. She said the Township had asked him to go back and re-evaluate the ordinance and make some suggestions to improve it and strengthen it.
- e) There was a brief discussion about the brush and log pick-up and whether or not there was a limit on the amount that could

be placed out for Public Works to pick-up. Wasserman said he would speak to Don Hansen about it.

**VIII. Adjournment:**

A motion was made, seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Debra Rogers", is written in a cursive style.

**Debra Rogers, Secretary**

**Date Approved: April 28, 2010**