

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting of April 28, 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 7:40 p.m.

Present were: Wasserman, Thoft, Machold, Reeves, Kaczerski, Hiltner, Roberts Martindell and Ullman

Absent were: Eiref, Rojer, Hamilton and Lempert

There were no members 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 of March 24, 2010 as written and presented.

V. Public Comment:

There were no members of the public present.

VI. Discussion and Decisions:

a) **TED Monitors:** Hiltner said he spoke with Jason Harris who currently does electrical work for the schools and he has volunteered to help install the monitor at the Mountain Lakes house. He said the monitors provide “real time” energy use and he thinks the monitors will be useful in tracking where there is high usage. He said the monitor can be plugged into a computer router and it will broadcast the usage and it will store the data for a few months. He will arrange a time for Wolanin and Wasserman to come to the house to help diagnose the energy usage. He said he draft an announcement to help to get public volunteers for the monitors (the PEC purchased 6). Wasserman suggested he work with Diane Landis and there are many people who signed up through Sustainable Princeton. Hiltner said he would send out an email to those people to solicit interest.

b) **Township Ordinance Update:** Wasserman said Lempert was not in attendance but she gave him three ordinances updates.

- i. **Low Tract Ordinance:** Ullman said the ordinance will be going in front of the Regional Planning Board on May 6, 2010. She said the Planning Board will need to review and give comments back to Township Committee prior to the public hearing on May 10, 2010. She said the ordinance is now much more sensitive to environmental issues through its zoning. She said the minimum preserved open space has increase from 60% to 81%; the impervious coverage has been reduced from 30% to 8%; the new site disturbance is now 19%; the developer should try and achieve Leed Silver Standing; the current storm-water standards should be met and the specific design standards set forth by DEP shall be met. It was noted that a member of the PEC should attend the Planning Board meeting and also the Township Committee meeting for the public hearing on this.
 - ii. **Time of Decision Bill:** Wasserman noted that this was a bill that the PEC opposed. He said the Senate has passed it and it is on the governor's desk to be signed. He suggested the PEC send a recommendation to Township Committee to institute a law that would over-ride this law. Roberts noted that the Town cannot supersede a state law, it is the opposite. Martindell suggest that the PEC ask for an opinion from the Municipal Attorney. Wasserman said he would contact the Attorney and he will follow-up with ANJEC about this.
 - iii. **Storm-water Ordinance:** Machold said she went to a work shop given by Joe Skupien about the Township's Storm-water regulations. She said she and Lempert felt that the ordinance is not strong enough for a commission to weigh in on an application such as the Westerly Road Church application. Wasserman suggested tabling the discussion until Lempert and Machold have time to gather more information.
- c) **Princeton Borough Ordinance Updates:**
- i. Martindell said the Harrison Street Park is mostly done; the council voted to earmark \$30,000.00 to plant some perennials. The Commission then had a discussion on where the open space money is allocated and that a portion of it should go to maintaining the plants in the parks. There was also a discussion on how parks become a priority. Martindell stated that it is basically whoever screams the loudest. It was noted that the fence needs to be repaired at Marquand Park and the Borough has taken no action to fix it. Martindell also discussed the amount of money that will be put into Mary Morris Park to update it as it is a well utilized park. Wasserman suggested that PEC discuss forming a priority list for the Borough Parks. Machold suggested appointing a subcommittee.
- d) **Communiversitry and Earth Day Events:** Wasserman thanked the various people involved in helping out with the events. He said the recycling efforts

were defiantly noticed this year and he said he would be contacting Brushi to see exactly how much was collected. He said the Sustainable Princeton/PEC booth was a great success and he was pleased to see on-lookers at the booth continuously. He said this year Communiversiity was a major step forward from last year. Reeves said there were only 5 people that come out to Turning Basin Park and about 20 a Littlebrook for the cleanup. She said the Watershed would like to reschedule it for the fall in hopes of a better turn-out. Wasserman said he was disappointed in the turn-out for all of the events. He said there were many different press releases, and even though it was raining the turn-out was very minimal. He said they need to come up with a plan for next year. There was a suggestion that perhaps the turn-out was low because it was the day after Communiversiity.

- e) **Zoning Board Training Summary:** Thoft gave a brief over-view of the training and how it was geared towards the Township Zoning Board, and there was not a whole lot of information to gain. Thoft said she would work with Deb Rogers to come up with a more useful training for the PEC.

VII. Updates and Regular Business:

- a) **Chair's Report:** Wasserman reminded everyone of the final food waste recycling forum on April 30, 2010; the ANJEC auction of environmental art in October and December in Branchburg; and the NJ Wildlife Action Plan that will be presented at a number of times between now and the fall.
- b) **PEC 2010 Goals Update:** Wasserman said this is a working document. He said there may be some people who have the best of intentions to work on something but find that they don't have time to work on it. He said that is ok, it can be taken off of the 2010 list and placed on next year's list. He said he does not want people to feel pressured. The Commission discussed various items including the following items: Westerly Road Church – Ullman stated that when the Planning Board hears this on May 20, 2010 they may or may not make a decision depending on how far they get by 11:00 p.m. Wasserman said it is important for the Commission to understand what changes have been made and what the application looks like now prior to that meeting. He asked the Development Review Subcommittee to look into this and get back to the Commission via email in order to decide whether or not a special meeting will be needed prior to the Planning Board meeting. Tree Protection was marked completed as the Township now has an ordinance and it has been adopted. There was a lengthy discussion about the Adopt-A-Park initiation. Roberts noted that he and Machold will be working on this and will have a report for the Commission at its meeting next month. Martindell noted that if the PEC would like to take on Harrison Street Park for the Adopt-A-Park program, the Borough and its residents would be very grateful. He also said this would be a great opportunity for the PEC to begin discussions with the Borough to initiate this program. Ullman noted that the program needs to be structured and have some oversight by the governing body. Regarding the ERI, Wasserman noted that it is completed and there was a copy at the Communiversiity table and people were actually looking through it. He said it is now important that the Planning Board uses this document. Ullman first noted that the ERI is a wonderful document

and thanked the PEC for doing such a good job. She also said that the Planning Board has set-up a subcommittee to go through the ERI and the Municipal Assessment then make recommendations for changes in the Master Plan and that should be completed by year end. She said the ERI will be referred to as a resource in the Master Plan. Regarding the Green Building Committee, Thoft noted that there has been a checklist created and Hamilton is working on other items. Regarding the Carbon Calculator, Wasserman noted that Sustainable Princeton is currently working on this. Regarding the GHG baseline, the TED monitors will help to gather information. Hiltner said he will work on gathering information from the utility companies.

c) **Report from Focus Areas:**

- i. Hiltner and Martindell took the lead on this. Hiltner said one of the next steps would be to engage the Borough in a leaf management ordinance. Martindell said they will need specific steps to follow for this because there will be resistance from the Borough Public Works Department. Wasserman and Hiltner agreed to set up a meeting in Trelstad to discuss this.
- ii. Hiltner noted that there will be a talk at Mountain lakes on May 6, 2010 to discuss bringing back the American Chestnut.

There were no other focus areas discussed.

d) **Reports from Liaisons:**

- i. Recreation: Roberts reported that he attended a meeting with the Planning Board's Master Plan subcommittee to discuss open space. He said they are looking at additional areas to add to the acquisition list. Some of the area's currently on the list are just not suitable. He also noted that the Recreation Department recently purchased an ultrasonic device to remove algae – but it uses a small amount of electric and right now it is just too expensive to bring electric to the water. It was suggested that the Recreation Department approach the Princeton Parks Alliance and the Smoyer Park Neighborhood Alliance about funding to run the electric.

There were no other reports given.

VIII. Adjournment:

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Rogers, Secretary

Date Approved: May 26, 2010