

## PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**Minutes of Meeting of February 2, 2011– 7:30pm  
Meeting Room A  
Township Municipal Building  
400 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540**

### **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 7:35 p.m.**

Present were: Wasserman, Machold, Thoft, Hiltner, Kaczerski, Miller, Fichtenbaum, Ernst, Ullman and Nemeth

Absent were: Hamilton, Eiref and Crumiller , Rojer

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 December 15, 2010. One member abstained from voting.

### **V. Public Comment:** Chair Wasserman opened and closed the public comment as there were no members of the public present.

### **VI. Discussion/Decisions:**

- a.** Thoft reported for the Nominating Committee stating that it was the consensus to nominate Matthew Wasserman as Chair of the PEC for the year 2011. Hearing no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to appoint Matthew Wasserman as Chair of the PEC for the year 2011.
- b.** Thoft reported for the Nominating Committee stated that it was the consensus to nominate Victoria Hamilton as Vice Chair of the PEC for the year 2011. Hearing no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to appoint Victoria Hamilton vice Chair of the PEC for the year 2011.

- c. Wasserman introduced the new Township Liaison Sue Nemeth. Nemeth briefly discussed her background and stated that her main environmental interest right now is sustainable energy in Princeton Township.
- d. Wasserman introduced Heidi Fichtenbaum as the new Township member to the PEC. Fichtenbaum briefly discussed her background and stated that her main interests right now are sustainability and green building.
- e. Wasserman introduced Steve Miller as the new Borough member to the PEC. Miller briefly discussed his background and stated that his main interests are the environment.
- f. Wasserman introduced Ted Ernst as the new Recreation liaison to the PEC. Ernst said the recreation department takes environmental issues very seriously and has tried to incorporate them in the playing field and also with the design of the new pool complex.
- g. Wasserman read a resolution to appoint a Secretary to the PEC for the year 2011. A motion was made and seconded and the PEC voted unanimously to appoint Debra Rogers as the Secretary to the PEC for the year 2011.
- h. **Township Updates:** Nemeth stated that the Township's Citizen Finance Advisory Commission (CFAC) is currently looking at the open space tax dollars and would like the input from the PEC as well as others; the dilemma being whether or not to reduce the tax. She said that as a result of the re-evaluation in the Township, the open space dollars have doubled. The Commission proceeded to have a discussion on maintenance of the parks, a parks director and volunteer groups that were supposed to be overseeing the parks, perhaps contacting the Engineering Dept., Greg O'Neill and/or contacting Peter Wolanin for the list of park volunteers. It was suggested that the volunteer hours are calculated to turn that number in dollars and give it to the CFAC. Nemeth also suggested that the maintenance materials, signs and mulch be added to that calculated number. Miller to follow-up with Peter Wolanin for park volunteer list.
- i. **Leaf Collection:** Wasserman noted that he attended two meetings on leaf collection; one in the Township and one in the Borough. He said that Goldfarb agreed that something needed to be done in the Borough, and we needed to set a reduction goal. With Barbara Trelsted leading the way. he is going to reach out to the Town Topics about doing an article on a regular basis about sustainable items, including leaf collection. He said the Township meeting was more about the enforcement side of the issue and Kiser was going to reach out to other municipalities to see what they do. The Commission discussed education especially to the owners of the landscape companies, examples such as how the Harrison Street Park mulches the leaves back into the park and cutting the services altogether. Wasserman noted that there is a 10K grant available for storm-water and suggested that the Township use the leaf corrals as an the justification for that grant. He said he would like to put a subcommittee together to work on this issue.

## VII. Updates and Regular Business:

- a) **Chair's Report:** Wasserman asked for a volunteer to oversee the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed "clean-up day". Machold volunteered to oversee this.

- b) Wasserman suggested that each voting member of the PEC attend one of the ANJEC workshops per year. He suggested that once a workshop is attended, that member report back to the PEC at its next meeting. He said this is a good way for the Commission to stay well informed.
- c) **Parks/Natural Resource Management:** Hiltner noted that this will be the first year in quite some time that the Township will not be hiring White Buffalo to cull the deer population. He asked if he could obtain some data on the deer culling. Nemeth said she will try to obtain it. Hiltner also noted that there needs to be a balance to keep the deer population under control. Nemeth noted that Township Committee is aware of that and although it has not been discussed, it may be possible that they will bring in White Buffalo every other year to cull the deer. She said they will have to look at all the data and then make a decision from there.
- d) **Recycling:** Wasserman stated that he attended the Princeton Regional Schools Budget meeting and said this may be the time to encourage them to recycle as it may have a monetary benefit for them. He said they will be more than willing to do something that will bring dollars to the budget. Hiltner suggested they reduce the number of dumpsters which in turn will save them money. He said the staff needs to push for recycling in order for it to work. Nemeth suggested a student liaison to the PEC. Wasserman suggested that this can be another subcommittee of the PEC.
- e) **Sustainable Princeton:** Fichtenbaum said they are in the process of becoming certified with Sustainable Jersey. She noted that SP has a new webmaster that is going to be working with the SP website, and they also have a planner in the group who will be looking at the ordinances and then share suggestions with the two governing bodies. She noted other areas they are working on such as a compost bin at Stuart Country Day School, Bio-Diesel, and partnership to work with builders and architects and the housewarming project; which is a pilot project with silent pairs of people in 3 neighborhoods to get training on home energy improvements. She said she is excited that SP is starting to generate a lot of enthusiasm. The Commission briefly discussed obtaining usage numbers from PSE&G and how the Township has switched providers to Veridian. She said that SP has drafted a Green Building Checklist. Wasserman asked that it be circulated to the PEC for comment. She also reminded everyone of the Sustainable Princeton Leadership Awards on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Library.
- f) **SPRAB:** Thoft noted that SPRAB has not met since November. She noted that the Development Review Subcommittee has not been receiving the application log from the Regional Planning Board. The Commission then had a discussion on the proposed Arts & Transit Neighborhood and the relocation of the Dinky. She stated that she was prepared to present a position paper from the PEC but due to the recent circumstances this needed to be rethought.. Nemeth noted that the Township is going to try and bring the University back to the table to discuss this. She suggested that the PEC take a position on this. Thoft and the Application subcommittee were to prepare a position paper for the February meeting

- g) Recreation:** Ernst said that Borough Council has re-introduced the pool ordinance and they will vote again on the ordinance on February 22, 2011. He said the plans have been revised and it seems that people are happy with the results so far. There was a question as to whether or not the “green” elements have been left in the plan. Ernst stated that for the most part they are still very much a part of the proposed plans, however there have been some items that have been eliminated.
- h) Regional Planning Board:** Ullman noted that the PEC had discussed the impervious surface ordinance but never sent any comments to the RPB. She reminded the PEC about the Time of Decision Bill and how this ordinance needs to be in place by May. Wasserman noted that the PEC has been backed-up but will be concentrating on the ordinances at its next meeting. Ullman also noted that Solow had sent the PEC the appendix from the open space inventory and asked for comments from the PEC. She said the RPB now has a draft to The Open Space and Recreation element that the Master Plan Subcommittee will be reviewing. She said the subcommittee will send its comments to the PEC for review and comments.
- i) Next PEC Meeting:** Wasserman said that he will go through what has been discussed and see what subcommittees are needed and goals that the PEC may want to tackle this year. He also noted that the PEC should be prepared to spend time on the impervious surface ordinance and the stream corridor ordinance at the next meeting.

**VIII. Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Debra Rogers, Secretary**

**Date Approved: March 23, 2011**