

## PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**Minutes of Meeting of March 23, 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 7:33 p.m.**

Present were: Wasserman, Machold, Hamilton, Hiltner, Miller, Fichtenbaum, Thoft, Ullman, Rojer, Eiref, Crumiller and Nemeth

Absent were: Ernst and Kaczerski

There were 3 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 to adopt the minutes of February 23, 2011 as written and amended.

### **V. Public Comment:** There was no public comment at this point.

### **VI. Discussion and Decisions:**

- a) Township Updates: Nemeth – no report.
- b) Borough Updates: Crumiller that the municipal green report has been posted by Sustainable Princeton and it will be up on the website. She also noted that on May 3, 2011 Borough Council will be introducing an ordinance for the Arts & Transit district. This ordinance will primarily be zoning changes to allow the district.
- c) **2011 Goals:** Wasserman said he would like to hear from the subcommittees at this point.
  - i. **Application Review Subcommittee:** Hamilton stated that the committee is currently working on the Province Line Woods memo. She said it will follow the same format as was used for Westerly Road Church. She said it is not completed yet, but once it is complete it will be distributed via email for comments. She said the actual deadline for the memo has

passed but the committee was encouraged to submit it as soon as possible.

- ii. **Parks and Recreation Subcommittee:** Machold noted that any PEC statement regarding the Open Space and Recreation Element of the Master Plan should be made no later than Friday April 27, 2011. She asked Joan Magee to bring forth her comments regarding this. Magee said she has reviewed the open space draft and she said the report states that 20% of the Townships land has been permanently preserved and she said that is simply not true. She said private open and the water in Carnegie Lake is not appropriate for this calculation. She also noted that all of Jasna Polana is not public open space, just the trail. She said space is being double counted (such as the Historic Preservation properties). She said the numbers in the report are just not adding up. She noted that there should be more of a focus on preserving land on the ridge and on passive recreation as it seems that the report is all about active recreation. Ullman invited PEC members to attend the Master Plan Subcommittee meeting on May 9, 2011. Machold said she would work with Magee to develop a draft response to the report to send to the Master Plan Subcommittee. It was also noted that the “open space” list should in fact be “open space” and not a park bench. There was a brief discussion over how open space is prioritized for acquisition and the need of a Parks Manager.  
**Parks/Recreation2:** Miller said he has been able to get in touch with everyone but the Autumn Hill Reservation representative. He said of the representatives have written some very informative letter with regards to the time and money involved with the parks. Machold said it is difficult for her to quantify the number for Marquand Park. Wasserman encouraged her to give her best estimate. Eiref noted that there are many people who volunteer to clean up with parks; they go there with plastic bags. She noted that the actual upkeep of Smoyer Park is farmed out to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to mow the grass. Nemeth noted that the Public Works Dept. has lost staff and as a result services will be diminished. Ullman stated that it would be helpful to have some sort of parks manager to coordinate the park volunteers. Eiref also noted that the parks are a mess after the soccer and baseball games. She suggested hiring one child per park to help keep it clean. Nemeth suggested contacting Human Services and suggesting the job for its summer job program. Ullman suggested drafting a letter to the Recreation Board to let them know that the PEC is concerned about the condition of the Parks where there are playing fields. Nemeth suggested targeting the soccer and

baseball associations as well. Wasserman suggested that the Recreation Board should receive the letter and to let them handle it from there. He said he will draft a letter pointing to several solutions.

- d) **Impervious Coverage Discussion:** Wasserman said he has worked with databases of the Township properties and has developed a spreadsheet based on the size of the lot. He said he also worked with the numbers from construction permits over the last 3 years. He said he wants to sit down with Lee Solow to develop a maximum impervious coverage for non-residential lots as well. He said the PEC should be thinking about what it wants to do to keep the maximum impervious coverage under 20%. The PEC then held a discussion on the variables that should or should not be included in the equation to determine the maximum ISC %. It was decided that the PEC review the numbers that Wasserman has presented and Wasserman will meet with Solow and the issue will be discussed at the next meeting. Wasserman said he will have more data available in the next few months.
- e) **Stream Buffer Legislation:** Magee said that there was a court decision in 2006 that stated that 300 foot buffers were legal and can be imposed around every stream. She said the general language of the legislation leaves the determination up to the DEP. Soon after that the DEP adopted “Water Quality Management Rules” and as part of these rules they set forth 300 foot buffers for C-1 streams and 150 foot buffers for trout maintenance waterways and trout production waterways, and all other streams having a 50 foot buffer. She said not the state required each municipality to have a stream buffer ordinance in place. She said the state has a model ordinance for the riparian zone saying all c-1 streams have to have a buffer of 300 feet and everything else is 50 feet. She said the Counties will develop the water quality plan and then the municipalities in the county will adopt the ordinances. She said she is wondering why Mercer County has not sent out a letter to its municipalities urging them to adopt an ordinance now. She said SBMWS will be having discussions with Mercer County regarding this. She noted that right now the DEP does not have the staff to enforce this, so it is up to the municipalities to adopt the ordinances so there can be some sort of enforcement in place on the local level. She said she is recommending that the PEC make a recommendation to Township Committee that this ordinance needs to be put in place ASAP. Hamilton and Magee will work together to develop recommendations for the PEC to make to Township Committee.

## VII. Updates and Regular Business:

- a) **Chairs Report:** Wasserman reported that the PEC sponsored stream clean-up at Lake Carnegie was a huge success and thanked all who participated. In total, 46 people helped pick up more than 1700 lbs of trash; 65 bags worth, with the most common object being the plastic bottle. Wasserman also reported that a member of the public had reached out to the Recreation Department (Ted Ernst) to volunteer to update the parks and trails maps of Princeton. He noted that these maps have not been updated in over 15 years. Wasserman thanked Hiltner for his perseverance as he (Hiltner) was finally able to get Princeton’s entire list of utility bills from the Utility company. A brief discussion was had on how best to

exploit the data to drive overall energy use down throughout Princeton. This discussion will continue at future meetings and should be added to our monthly agenda for the near future.

- b) **Recycling:** Hiltner noted that he has tried to schedule the tour of the recycling center but cannot get in touch with anyone; the last phone he was told someone would call him back but they refuse to give him the name of who would be calling back. Nemeth noted that the electronic recycling program in the Township is not working. She said she has left several messages and no one has called her back; Hamilton said she has left messages also and has not received a call back. Fichtenbaum suggested reaching out to the Borough about electronic recycling.
- c) **Shade Tree Commission:** Eiref said that the Shade Tree Commission was sponsoring an Arbor Day event at the Littlebrook School on Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. She said there will also be demonstrations using the equipment that is used for cutting tree limbs and removing trees.
- d) **Leaf Management:** Hiltner noted that there is quite a bit of yard waste lining the streets. Wasserman said that he will work with Hiltner on the leaf management issue.
- e) **Sustainable Princeton:** Fichtenbaum stated that on April 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a “flash mob” to promote the “bring your own bag” campaign. She said no one will know where it will take place until 10:30 a.m. of that day. She said to check the Facebook page for the location. The event will take place at 5:15 p.m. that evening. She noted that June 9<sup>th</sup> will be the big launch of the program that will be held at Hines Plaza. She said she has spoken to the Merchants and some are already asking patrons if they would like a bag or have they brought their own. She said the Sustainable Princeton website is being revamped and they are looking for people to critique it.
- f) **SPRAB:** Thoft said they just finished reviewing Hillier’s project on Bunn Drive and they brought up the Green Building standards. She said they can’t force “green building initiatives” on the applicant but have suggested it in the SPRAB report. Fichtenbaum stated that the PEC should be demanding the energy models for these new buildings. She also noted that Princeton University should be setting a world class example of reduced energy usage. Wasserman noted that the PEC will have the opportunity to suggest green building initiatives when the application is in the Planning Board stage. Ullman reminded the PEC that they cannot demand LEED Certification without legislation to back it up. Hamilton said that PEC needed to research whether there was anything precluding Princeton from adopting a green building ordinance. Hiltner asked why the PEC can’t ask the schools to reduce its energy or manage its energy as well. Wasserman suggested that Hiltner draft a letter and the PEC will review it. Nemeth said there needs to be public awareness of green building initiatives and energy reduction.
- g) **Health Commission:** Rojer noted that the Health Commission finalized its ordinance banning smoking within 1000 feet of a school and also raising the age to 19.
- h) **Flooding/Storm Water Management:** No Report

- i) **Recreation:** No report
- j) **Regional Planning Board:** Ullman said the Master Plan Subcommittee is working on the Open Space and Recreation Element and will begin working on the Conservation Element. She noted that the conservation element should not talk energy usage.

**VIII. Adjournment:**

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Debra Rogers, Secretary  
Princeton Environmental Commission**

Date Approved: May 25, 2011