

## PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting of June 22, 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, Machold, Ullman, Miller, Fichtenbaum, Thoft, Hiltner, Kaczerski, Ullman, Rojer and Nemeth (arrived late)

Absent were: Ernst, Crumiller and Eiref

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 to adopt the minutes of May 25, 2011 as written and amended.

### V. Public Comment: There was one member of the public that spoke and said she was from Americore and was there to observe the meeting.

### VI. Discussion and Decisions:

- a) **Township Updates** – Nemeth said she noticed a lot of people at the Environmental Commission rally in Trenton. She said that the government representatives need to hear from Environmental Commissions about their concerns and also comments about pending legislation. She suggested arranging a lobby day with the local representatives – she also noted that she would reach out to these people to arrange the meeting. Nemeth and Wasserman said they would also work on a letter to send to the representatives about issues of concern.
- b) **Borough Updates** – although Crumiller was not in attendance, Nemeth noted that Borough Council is not likely to consider hydrofracking without some sort of presentation about the issue.
- c) **Machold Resolution** – Wasserman noted with sadness that Machold has resigned from the PEC. He read a resolution thanking her for her many

contributions to the PEC and noted that she will be missed. He said he will be meeting with Mayor Goerner about a replacement and if anyone has someone in mind to please let him know at their earliest convenience.

- d) **July 2011 Meeting** – Wasserman said that he would like to hear from everyone and their availability for the July 27, 2011 meeting. He said he will be unable to attend that meeting and if the need arises he will try and reschedule the meeting.

## VII. Reports on Focus Areas:

- a) **Shade Tree:** No report
- b) **Recreation:** No Report
- c) **Health Commission:** Rojer noted that the Health Commission has been having discussions on animal control and dealing with the issue in closed session. He said the Commission is deciding on how to move forward with the issue. He said it is much more complex than it has been in the past because there are so many more people and less area for the animals to roam. There was a brief discussion on deer culling and whether or not it will continue.
- d) **Flooding/Storm Water Management:** No report
- e) **Regional Planning Board:** Ullman noted that the Township and Borough have introduced ordinances for the Arts & Transit neighborhood and the Planning Board will hold a hearing on the matter on July 7, 2011 to discuss the compatibility of the ordinance with the Master Plan. She also noted that the Lanwin Development (Province Line Woods) application will be heard by the Planning Board on July 14, 2011. She noted that the PEC memo is on record with the Planning Board. Machold said she will be in attendance at the July 14, 2011 meeting.
- f) **Chairs Report:**
  - i. **Child Safe Playing Fields Act:** Wasserman said he sent this over to Ted in the recreation dept. and Ted's response was that the act did not get enough votes and will not be moving forward at this point.
  - ii. **Stream Buffer:** Wasserman said he followed up with Robert Kiser regarding this issue and Kiser's response was that the "township is covered". It was noted that Fichtenbaum was the author of the memo regarding this issue and she explained how the municipalities ordinance is "complimentary" to state and federal regulations. She also noted that the ordinance references the DEP's C-1 regulations. Wasserman said he will speak to Ed Schmierer (Township Attorney) to see whether or not the municipality can regulate more than the state and federal regulations stipulate. It was noted that there would have to be very strong data to support the local municipality regulating more than what is stipulated in the state and federal regulations.
  - iii. **Recreation Department Events:** Wasserman said the Recreation Dept will be holding an event on August 2, 2011 – Community Night Out – and said that the PEC will be able to

have a table there for public education if it so chooses. He also said they will be holding a Summer Concert series at Petronella Gardens. Wasserman said that he will follow-up with Ernst to inquire about recycling and composting at these events. After a brief discussion it was decided that the PEC would send the following questions to Ernst for him to address at the next PEC meeting:

- What type of recycling do you do?
- What is the Recreation recycling plan?
- What are the challenges?
- What can the PEC do to help?

Nemeth suggested giving the Recreation/Municipality some suggestions to strive for. Wasserman noted that he will speak to Diane Landis that the municipal working group of Sustainable Princeton work on some recycling plans. There were also some comments about debris on the playing fields in the Township. Wasserman said he will reach out to Ernst and discuss these issues.

#### **VIII. Discussion and Decisions** (continued):

- a) **2011 Goals:** Green Building Standards – Hamilton said she will continue to work on this throughout the summer.
- b) **Impervious Surface Coverage:** Machold presented a resolution that she worked on with Joan Magee. Machold explained that the resolution explains the rationale for impervious surface coverage standards. She said she would like the PEC to concentrate on the 5 points listed in the paragraph beginning with “Now therefore be it resolved”. Machold noted that she worked on this resolution for the preservation of the Watershed and to limit the run-off into the streams. Magee stated that it is the SBMWS’s hope that municipalities within the Watershed adopt these criteria items. A question arose as to the percentage of run-off that ends up in the streams. That question could not be answered at this time. Machold stated that this resolution gives the PEC something to work with. It was also noted that the sliding scale mentioned in the criteria is not defined and if an ordinance was crafted, that sliding scale would need to be defined. Wasserman noted that it becomes very frustrating that the Commission continues to work on this and it is continually shot down. A reference was made to the Westerly Road Church application and how the PEC focused on the impervious surface coverage and now it is being shot down. Hamilton noted that the PEC concentrated on the ISC because it was commercial development and what is being presented deals mainly with residential. It was also noted that point #5 of the resolution refers back to grandfathered lots that are large and can be subdivided which will increase impervious surface coverage. The PEC help on discussion on this including items such as whether or not it was more beneficial to have larger lots or better or cluster the land that has over 14 acres. (There are over 100 lots with 14 acres or more in the Township). The PEC was also discussing what areas of the Township are considered to be “receiving areas” and

what areas are considered to be “sending areas”. Hamilton suggested that the PEC vote on whether or not this is an issue that it would like to devote its time to. She said it has been monopolizing the PEC discussions and as a result other areas are not being discussed. She also noted that she cannot work on both this issue and the green building standards issue. After a vote of the members present it was decided that the PEC would work on the green building standards and maybe sometime in the future (after the consolidation issue has been voted on) the PEC would then reconsider working on the ISC issue. Kaczerski noted that while the PEC focuses on developing green building standards the larger lots in the Township may be developed by the time the PEC comes back to the ISC issue. The PEC then embarked into a discussion on Sewer Service Areas and whether or not it should focus on this. Nemeth noted that the Township Committee send its recommendation along with all of the comments from others groups into the County for its consideration, noting that the Township no longer has jurisdiction on this issue. She said the County has submitted its recommendations to the DEP and they are now awaiting a public hearing on the subject. Magee noted that the Sewer Service Area issue is a very important issue and she would like to see the PEC focus on this. Wasserman then posed a question to the Commission – where should the PEC set its focus – should it be green buildings, sewer service areas or impervious surface coverage. It was mentioned that green building standards can include sewers. Wasserman noted that the PEC went down this road already with regards to the Westerly Road Church application and he said before the PEC does this again, he thinks it would be a good idea to speak with Lee Solow and Bob Kiser about this. Wasserman noted that the Secretary will send out the minutes from previous discussions on this and he will send out the sewer service map and a link to the County’s information on this. Wasserman noted that he will get information from the DEP and send it out to everyone and the PEC can decide whether or not this issue is worth pursuing. Nemeth again noted that the Township does not have jurisdiction on this issue; it is now in the hands of the DEP. She said if the PEC would like to present information; it would have to testify at the public hearing with the DEP.

**IX. Focus Areas:**

- a) **Sustainable Princeton:** Wasserman noted that Sustainable Princeton did not receive the grant for more compost bins. Fichtenbaum noted that the housewarming project walk-through will be on the upcoming weekend. She also noted that she is mentoring a girl scout who’s gold project is composting and she has been going all over (Princeton and West Windsor) encouraging people to participate. She said the Girl Scout had hoped to sign up 10 people and on her first event she had 17 people sign up. Fichtenbaum also reported that Sustainable Princeton has launched its “bring your own bag” program. She said that Sustainable Princeton has also initiated “Eco-Hours” where people get together and socialize to support local businesses (these social events take place at a different local business each time it meets). She said Sustainable Princeton is getting close to submitting everything for the certification of the municipality.

She also noted that the “school sub-committee” has launched and has been well received so far. It was suggested that perhaps all of the PTO’s work together to fund one person in each school to teach recycling initiatives.

**X. Adjourn:**

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Debra Rogers, Secretary**

Date Approved: July 20, 2011