

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**Minutes of Meeting of October 26, 2011– 7:30pm
Meeting Room B
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 7:34 p.m.

Present were: Wasserman, Hamilton, Kaczerski, Miller, Fichtenbaum, Applegate, Ullman, Rojer, Thoft, Ernst and Hiltner

Absent were: Nemeth, Crumiller and Eiref

There 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 to adopt the minutes of September 21, 2011 as written and amended.

V. Decisions and Discussions:

- a) Wasserman said he was willing to adjourn the meeting if the members would rather be attending the Joint Consolidation Meeting. The members expressed that they would like to continue with the PEC meeting.
- b) **Borough Update** – Wasserman noted that he attended a meeting in the Borough regarding recycling issues. He said Crumiller will be setting up another meeting with the Arts Council regarding recycling practices at the Communiversy Day event. He said one of the topics discussed was Landis' meeting with the MCIA and perhaps drafting a recycling ordinance for the Borough and Township. He said the MCIA will be paying for new recycling bins to replace existing recycling bins at Hinds Plaza in the borough to improve recycling.
- c) **Municipal Consolidation** – Wasserman noted that a consolidated Princeton would allow for one member of the PEC to sit on the Planning Board. He said he was dismayed to see the letters from the PBA regarding a consolidation of the Borough and Township. It was noted that a) the letter was alarming because according to the consolidation report there would actually not be a reduction of the officers but they would need less high ranking officers and b) there would be

better representation, not worse. The PEC also wants to gather more information on leaf and garbage collection, curbside composting and energy to maximize the benefit of consolidation (should it pass). . He said they should request data from the Borough and Township and then once the results from the vote are determined we will move ahead with our discussions. A motion was made and seconded to request data from the Borough and Township that is comparable to what Chris Budzinski had supplied the PEC 2 years ago. The PEC voted unanimously to approve this motion.

- d) **Safe Playing Fields Act:** Hamilton said she, Wasserman and Ernst attended the Princeton Regional Health Commission meeting and shared the information regarding the Safe Playing Fields Act with the Commission members. She said they provided the PRHC with information and expressed the health concerns that the PEC has. Rojer noted that Henry will be looking into this issue and contacting other communities to see what they are doing and then he will report back to the PRHC. The PRHC will then determine where to go with the issue. It was noted that there are as many environmental concerns as there are health concerns with pesticides. Ernst noted that one of the biggest concerns is the cost, because organics can cost a lot more than what it does now. It said the Recreation Department would be hard pressed to shut down one of the playing fields for a year or two to mainstream the organics. He also noted that if the law passes it will affect the school playing fields as well. Wasserman said he would like to see data on the types of pesticides that are being used so the PEC can look at the components of the chemicals. It was also noted that the data can be used to educate the public as well. Hamilton said she thought public education would be much more powerful coming from the PRHC. Rojer said he will keep the PEC informed of the information that is gathered by Henry. Wasserman noted that the data should be sent to the PEC.
- e) **Chair's Report:**
- a) Wasserman noted that the next meeting of the PEC will be on November 16, 2011 and then another meeting on December 14th. He asked the PEC if they would be available for a meeting on December 7th and that way the meeting on November 16th and December 14th could be canceled. A motion was made and seconded and the PEC voted unanimously to move the meeting to December 7th, 2011.
- b) **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative:** Wasserman said he attended a meeting of 30-35 people regarding this issue and he thinks it should be a subject that is discussed with Senator Bateman. He said he sent a letter to Nemeth requesting that this topic be included in the items of discussion with our meeting with the Senator.
- c) **Sustainable New Jersey Certification:** Wasserman noted the Borough and the Township were able to get this certification. Ernst noted that the Recreation Department is on Twitter and Facebook and these types of announcements can be sent to the Recreation Department and they will post these types of news alerts on those sites.
- d) **Parks;/ Natural Resources/Recycling and Leaves:** Hiltner said that 66 acres along the ridge including the Ricciardi property have been preserved

and the D&R Canal Commission will be installing paths in that area. Hiltner noted that the data shows clearly the effectiveness of professional deer management in the township over the past ten years, and that White Buffalo has been brought back after a one year pause to again curb the deer population. Hiltner said he researched where Princeton's curbside recyclables go, and in the process learned that the hauler accepts plastics #'s 1-7 with the exception of 6. It was suggested that the Borough and Township put this list on its websites for the residents. There was also a discussion about touring the recycling plant and it was determined that Wasserman would reach out to Dan Napoleon at Mercer County to see if he would be willing to help schedule this tour.

- e) **Leaf Corrals:** Wasserman said he received a report from Andrea Malcolm regarding the leaf corrals that were distributed to approximately 43 people. He said most people found them to be easy to set up and that they are a good alternative to bagging. He said she sent out a survey and about 1/3 of the recipients responded. Some of the responses included but not limited to the following comments: ease of use, need strength to put the poles in the ground, gardeners who were unfamiliar with the corral did not want to use them or used them incorrectly, majority would recommend them to others, suggested offering different sized corrals depending on the size of the lot and lastly most thought the composting was effective however those with sunnier lots had better results. He noted that Princeton Township provided 10 more leaf corrals and 9 of them have already been taken. He said Sustainable Princeton will continue to advertise the use of the corrals and will try and get before and after pictures up on the website.
- f) **Sustainable Princeton:** Fichtenbaum stated one of the Boy Scouts is working towards his Eagle badge and will be doing the build-a-bin project. She said the Business Group is working on developing a conference to organize businesses around sustainability. She said the School Group had a couple of meetings to get more visioning going such a removing Styrofoam from the schools and healthier lunch options. She noted that the bag campaign is moving along nicely and she announced that McCaffrey's planning on installing a greenhouse on the roof of the building. She said she will get the preliminary green building checklist out to the PEC in the near future. The PEC then held a discussion on the use of "green initiatives" and how to it can get involved in the development process sooner rather than later.
- g) **SPRAB:** Thoft discussed the two applications that were heard at SPRAB. She said the first application – 158 Witherspoon is a project that Robert Hillier will be doing. The existing structure(s) will be demolished and replaced with 3 units. She said the density of the application makes it smart growth. She said the second application – Institute for Advanced Study – Faculty Housing is an application for 8 townhouses and 5 single family homes. She said the PEC sent a memo to the Regional Planning Board regarding this application. She said Robert Hillier will be designing the townhouses and spearheading the initiation of the Home Owners Association

and then individual builders will be constructing the single family homes. Ullman said this application will likely come to the Regional Planning Board in December. The PEC discussed the possibility of having a zoning liaison to the PEC. Thoft said she would speak to Peter Kneski, Township Zoning Officer and Derek Bridgers, Borough Zoning Officer about this.

- h) **Shade Tree Commission:** Hamilton said she spoke extensively to Greg O'Neill the Township Arborist about the fact that PSE&G is topping off the trees that are close to or encroaching on its wires. Wasserman said he would speak with Machold about this.
- i) **Recreation Department:** Ernst said that the pool construction is moving along. He said there are piles of concrete on the site and these pieces of concrete will be recycled into the new construction. When asked about the delivery of the pool, he said the pool will be delivered in 3 pieces and it will be stored in King of Prussia until it is ready for installation.
- j) **Regional Planning Board:** Ullman said the revised new Open Space Element of the Master Plan will be discussed at the meeting on November 10, 2011. She said the Planning Board will also be discussing the Borough and Township Arts & Transit ordinances.
- k) **Flooding/Storm Water:** Applegate expressed concern about a fuel leak that happened during hurricane Irene. She asked if this was an area that the PEC would get involved. It was stated that these types of issues are in the sole jurisdiction of the DEP and not a local jurisdiction.

VI. Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Rogers, Secretary

Date Approved: December 7, 2011