

**PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**Minutes of Meeting of January 25, 2012– 8:30pm  
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 8:45 p.m.**

Present were: Wasserman, Kaczerski, Thoft, Hiltner, Miller, Fichtenbaum, Applegate, Herlihy, Crumiller and Lempert

Absent were: Ullman, Rojer 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. Nominations and Appointments:**

Fichtenbaum noted that she polled all of the Commission members and they were happy with the way things are run and she nominated Matt Wasserman for the position of Chairman of the PEC for the year 2012. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to have Matt Wasserman appointed as Chairman.

Miller nominated Fichtenbaum as Vice Chair of the Commission.

Wasserman nominated Thoft as Vice Chair of the Commission.

After a polling of the Commission members Thoft was the nomination and appointment as Vice Chair of the Commission for the year 2012. The vote was 4 votes for Thoft and 3 votes for Fichtenbaum with one abstention.

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to appoint Deb Rogers as Secretary of the Commission for year 2012.

**V. Minutes:**

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted to adopt the minutes of December 7, 2011 as written and amended.

**VI. Discussion and Decisions:**

- a) Wasserman suggested that before the Commission proceeds with the meeting, the members should think about how they would like to move forward with the goals and how to proceed with future meetings with regard to the new subcommittees that will be formed. He said these topics will be discussed further later on in the meeting, but for now he would like everything to just think about it.
- b) **Township Update:** Lempert noted that Township Committee will be discussing a resolution for Princeton Township to become a member of the Raritan Watershed at its first meeting in February. Lempert also noted that the Open Space tax will cease to exist at the end of the year. She noted that there will be a question on the November ballot to determine the new percentage rate. Currently the Township pays 2 cents and the Borough pays 1 cent. Lempert also said she would work to arrange the meeting with Senator Bateman.
- c) **Borough Update:** Crumiller said that the Shade Tree Commission (STC) is still working with the Township STC to merge databases and ordinances.
- d) **Municipal Consolidation:** Wasserman said at the last PEC it was decided that there were certain areas of concern as it relates to the municipal consolidation. Those areas being waste, open space, green building and relations with Princeton University. He said should the PEC decide to create subcommittees an objective should be created first. He said he reached out to the Mayors and they have picked a transition team and the PEC will be pulled in on items as it relates to the PEC. The Commission began its discussion with the first area of concern – waste. Lempert noted that there will be many new bids that will go out concerning this topic. Wasserman noted that the PEC wants to make sure that certain priorities are set forth in the bids. Lempert noted that the PEC should have their concerns in writing so as to not overcomplicate the issues with the transition team. She said there should be a formal statement from the PEC because every department will be reviewed at different times. Wasserman said it is important to have the voice of the PEC at the table when the transition team discusses certain items. It was also suggested that the PEC have a document on each item of concern with specific PEC talking points. It was determined that the members would rotate attending the transition team meetings. Wasserman said secondly, it is important to put names with each area of concern (subcommittees). It was also decided to include energy in the waste topic. The following subcommittees were formed – Waste/Energy – Hiltner, Wasserman, Lempert, Crumiller; Open space – Miller, Herlihy and Applegate; Green Building – Thoft, Fichtenbaum, Kaczerski. Wasserman said while each subcommittee works it should think about how to utilize Princeton University as it relates to the environment. Wasserman suggested that for the next PEC meeting, each subcommittee have a 1 page document that states priorities, objectives etc. He said each subcommittee should consist of no more than 5

members in order to avoid a quorum. He suggested that each subcommittee send this document to Deb Rogers ahead of time and she will forward to the PEC.

- e) **Safe Playing Fields Act:** Wasserman said there is no new information on this. He said when he and Hamilton went to the Health Commission meeting it was to show that the PEC was less concerned about the act itself and more concerned about the chemicals and how harmful they are to us and our children. He said he is awaiting a response from the Health Commission.
- f) **Sustainable Princeton Awards cost reimbursement:** Wasserman said he would like the PEC to reimburse Sustainable Princeton for the cost it incurred for the awards that were presented this evening. He said the total cost is around \$39.00. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to reimburse Sustainable Princeton for the cost of the awards.
- g) **Chairs Report:** Wasserman said the annual Stream Clean-Up will take place on 4/21 & 4/22 and 4/28 & 4/29. He encouraged the members to attend. He also noted that NJ Strategic Plan will have some meetings coming up, the first one being on March 1<sup>st</sup>. He asked if the PEC wanted to weigh in on this issue and if so, someone could draft something for the PEC to vote on. Fichtenbaum said it is important to understand the local impacts. She said she thinks it is important that the PEC has a rep at the meeting who will give testimony. She said live testimony has a much bigger impact than a memo. She also noted that ANJEC is holding a teleconference on this. Wasserman said he would forward information on the teleconference.
- h) **Brush and Leave Collection numbers from the Borough and Township:** Wasserman said he received numbers from the Township and Borough and he has asked for more information from Kiser and Hansen and will forward it to the PEC when he receives it. There was a brief discussion about the Township Recycling Coordinator, in which Hiltner raised questions about the accuracy of a recent announcement about recycling sent out to 550 residents who are on the Township email list. Hiltner had sent a follow-up email to Township staff requesting clarification, but received no response. It was decided that Wasserman and Lempert would follow up on it.
- i) **Development Applications – Avalon Bay:** Kaczerski said that at the last PEC meeting it was decided that the PEC would try and weigh in on applications at the ground floor and not waiting until the application went to SPRAB. She said she met with Fichtenbaum and Thoft to discuss the Avalon Bay application. Thoft said that the Borough Mayor, Yina Moore, asked that the PEC provide input on the zoning change because an application has not been presented yet. Kaczerski said they have not submitted a proposal yet but are currently asking for a zoning change to increase the density of the site. She said she prepared a draft document and she went through the items in that document with the PEC. The memo discussed endorsing the increase in density if the developer were to obtain a certification using a standardized green building rating system; if they built it to a green rating system asking them to allow the site to be used to educate the public on green buildings; asking that they respect the landscape integrity; if they are granted a higher density they should increase the number of affordable units (keeping the percentage of affordable units at 20% of total); and

offering alternative uses to the area marked for a swimming pool. It was also suggested that the memo make it clear that an increase in density does not mean an increase in FAR. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to distribute the memo as amended at the meeting. Crumiller said it may be a good idea to distribute the memo to Borough Council prior to the February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 meeting. Wasserman noted that members of the PEC would be meeting with representatives of Avalon Bay to give them the opportunity to tell the PEC what they are thinking and he wondered if the memo should be sent after that meeting. Crumiller said it is better that the memo is sent sooner rather than later. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to send the memo as soon as it was amended. Fichtenbaum volunteered to appear at the Borough Council meeting to present the memo in person.

- j) Environment New Jersey:** Miller said that Deb Rogers sent an email to everyone about Environment New Jersey. He said he will be sending a letter to Senator Bateman regarding this.
- k) Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Debra Rogers, Secretary**

**Date Approved: February 22, 2012**