

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**Minutes of Meeting of February 25, 2012– 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 7:40 p.m.

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

Absent were: 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 as it was amended by Wasserman.

IV. Minutes:

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

V. Discussion and Decisions:

- a) **MCIA Discussion about Recycling** – Representing Mercer County – Dan Napoleon and Representing the Township Public Works Dept. – Janet Pellichero. Wasserman noted that he reached out to Napoleon with specific questions and asked that he attend the PEC meeting to clarify some misunderstandings. The main point of the discussion surrounded recycling containers with numbers 3-7 and how they are not collected in Mercer County but are in other towns. Napoleon explained that they are not collected because there is a limited market for these types of recyclables. He said when the recycling items are taken to the Colgate facility, numbers 3-7 are stored in warehouses and then ultimately shipped overseas or taken to a landfill. It was noted that Somerset County built their own MURF and then Waste Management comes and takes the recyclables but Somerset County does not know where it goes from there. There was a brief discussion about teaming up with Terra Cycle and it was noted that Terra Cycles “up cycles” rather than “recycles”. Napoleon also noted that when the recycling collection went “single stream” the cost savings were passed on to the Towns. He also noted that Mercer County doesn’t just want to collect 3-7 recyclables

they want to be able to recycle them as well. When asked about the total curbside collection numbers, Pellichero noted that she has those numbers for last year and would be happy to share it with the PEC. Wasserman thanked Napoleon and Pellichero for attending the PEC meeting and clearing up any misconceptions. Napoleon commended the PEC for the active role its takes in the community and suggested that the PEC look at the County website site regarding recycling – it is very informative and user friendly, he said. He also stated that he will keep the PEC informed about market availability as it comes up. Napoleon said that he could add plastics 3-7 to the list "next week" if he felt it was a good idea. Hiltner offered a case for including plastics 3-7 on the Mercer County list. In extensive phone conversations with representatives of Waste Management, the Colgate Paper Stock Company, and Somerset County, he had not heard of any problem with marketing the plastics. He had also heard a presentation in which Kevin Lyons of Rutgers University said that the collecting of plastics 3-7 by municipalities was encouraging companies to find a use for them. Hiltner also noted that various recyclables other than plastics 3-7 are also sent overseas, and that Princeton and Mercer County have no control over where any of its recyclables end up. Thoft asked if recycling plastics 3-7 would reduce the amount of trash Princeton generates, and therefor reduce tipping fees. Though Napoleon mentioned other recyclables that could potentially be added to the list, such as aerosol cans, aluminum trays and aluminum foil, the discussion focused on plastics.

b) Borough Update- Crumiller:

- i.** Crumiller discussed the Borough Shade Tree ordinance and how the ordinance will be revised to reflect notification requirements and enforcement issues. Hamilton discussed the “top off of trees” that PSE&D has been doing in Princeton Township and suggested that the STC’s in the Borough and Township discuss this. She also suggested that the towns work with PSE&G in a partnership regarding the trimming of the trees. Crumiller also noted that the Township and Borough Shade Tree Commissions are meshing their tree inventory databases. Kaczerski also noted that Grace Sinden (a former PEC and Health Commission member) reviewed both ordinances and came up with a list of differences. She said she will forward the list to Crumiller.
- ii.** Crumiller noted that Hiltner and Fichtenbaum read the PEC memo regarding Avalon Bay at a recent Borough Council meeting. She said she will be having a meeting with staff and will relay the items listed in the PEC memo but cannot guarantee that they will be included in the ordinance. She also noted that this new ordinance will be introduced at the next Borough Council meeting and it will most likely reflect a higher density and a lower requirement for affordable housing units. When asked if green building standards could be added to the ordinance, Crumiller replied that she could suggest it, but there are no guarantees that they will be included in the new ordinance. The PEC then held a brief discussion on the process of adopting an ordinance.

c) Township Update – Lempert:

- a) Lempert noted that the Transition Task Force is up and running and that the subcommittees are just getting started up. Wasserman noted that it is very important for the PEC to connect with the subcommittees. She said all of the meetings are listed on the Township website.

d) SPRAB Appointments:

A motion was made and seconded to appoint Thoft as the Borough and Applegate as the Township SPRAB representatives and the Commission voted unanimously to appoint them.

e) Chairs Report – Wasserman:

- a) Wasserman said he went to Kane University with representatives of Princeton University to see the “digester” that they have. He said it is approximately 6 feet in diameter and 12-15 feet long and that serves the needs of the University with a population of 17,000. He said he was surprised that there was no smell that comes with the use of this “digester”. He said the cost for this machine is about \$150,000.00 – Princeton University would put up the capital for this machine if the municipality would manage the program. He said talks are ongoing about this.
- b) Wasserman said that he and Miller sat in on talks about the State Strategic Plan – he said he will send his notes to the PEC from the meeting. Miller noted that the plan was very vague and that all of the criteria were removed.
- c) Wasserman stated that he is a member of a regional green team that has been pulled together by members of Sustainable New Jersey and is chaired by Pam Mount from Lawrenceville. He said the team will be looking at what can be done regionally not just in your own town. He said it is important for the PEC to be a part of this. He said he will send the notes out from this meeting when he receives them.
- d) Wasserman noted that Central Jersey Waste and Recycling has taken over Ed Robinson and those who were loyal to Ed Robinson to think about becoming a part of the organic program. (curbside composting).

VI. Focus Areas:

- a) **Open Space Subcommittee:** Wasserman noted that the members of this subcommittee have not yet met and suggested that Hamilton work with them to get them started. Hamilton voiced concerns over the fact that this subcommittee was be doing the same work as FOPOS. Wasserman he would look into what FOPOS is doing but also suggested that the Open Space Tax will need to be on the ballot in November and that is something that the Open Space subcommittee could work on.
- b) **Green Building Subcommittee:** Thoft said that this subcommittee has 2 primary goals; 1-reviewing stormwater and impervious coverage in both towns; and 2-attempt to get a green building checklist on site plan reviews to raise awareness about green building. She said right now they are beginning to look at the requirements in each town. There was also a suggestion that the subcommittee look at the green building checklist that Sustainable Princeton is creating and there was also a mention about Boulder Colorado and how they have a mandatory green building checklist. It was also noted that Sustainable Jersey has a protocol for municipalities to tack on questions to the site plan

review process. Kaczerski noted that Sustainable Princeton and the PEC need to coordinate so that efforts are not duplicated.

- c) **Waste & Energy:** Wasserman said the subcommittee is looking to see if they can require Waste contracts and RFP's to curbside composting. With regards to leaf collection, he said there is a push from the municipality to educate the public, but the subcommittee would also like to see the municipalities enforce the ordinance. And finally he said, with regard to renewable energy, he said the subcommittee will be working on this more in the near future.

VII. Reports from Liaisons:

- a) **Shade Tree Commission:** No report
- b) **Recreation:** Herlihy noted that the pool complex is coming along nicely and the new slide has been installed – she said it can be seen from the parking lot. She said opening day is Memorial Day weekend. The Commission then held a brief discussion on synthetic turf (it was noted that this is an area that the open space subcommittee can work on). It was noted that the Recreation Dept received a grant a few years ago from Mercer County for synthetic turf – however that money has not been spent yet. Lempert noted that Mercer County may be willing to work with the Recreation Dept if they decide not use it for synthetic turf.
- c) **Health Commission:** Rojer noted that with regards to Safe Playing Field, Henry said he would propose a resolution in favor of Safe Playing Fields. Herlihy noted that the Recreation Dept has reached out to other recreation departments in the state to see what they are doing and a majority of the towns do not do organics. It was suggested that this will eventually become law and that Princeton should be doing this now. It was suggested that Hamilton go to a recreation Board meeting and give the presentation that she gave to the PEC and to the Health Commission. Hamilton said the presentation should be in the hands of the Health Commission and not her. After a brief discussion it was decided that Hamilton would go to a Recreation Board meeting accompanied by representatives from the Health Commission.
- d) **Flooding & Stormwater Management:** No report.
- e) **Regional Planning Board:** Ullman said that the Planning Board is still in the midst of hearing the Institute of Advanced Study application.
- f) Rojer noted that there will be a Princeton Future meeting on March 17, 2012 about the future use of public buildings.
- g) Kaczerski noted that the Development Review Subcommittee was left off the agenda and should be placed on next months agenda.
- h) Hiltner said that there needs to be more discussion concerning the use of recycling containers and recycling practices at the Princeton Commiversity Day celebration.

- VIII. **Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Debra Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Debra" and the last name "Rogers" clearly distinguishable.

Debra Rogers, Secretary

Date Approved: March 25, 2012