

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting of April 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 7:33 p.m.

Present were: Wasserman, Hamilton, Kaczerski, Hiltner (arrived late), Miller, Fichtenbaum, Applegate, Herlihy, Ullman, Rojer, Crumiller and Lempert

Absent were: Eiref

There were 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 with the condition that the recycling discussion may have to be moved if Hiltner is not present yet.

IV. Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted to adopt the minutes of March 28, 2012 as written and amended.

V. Discussion and Decisions:

- a) **Township Update:** Lempert noted that Princeton University will be running the Free-B bus for Communiversy. The bus will pick up and drop off at a number of locations including Princeton Township Hall, Elm Court, Princeton Shopping Center and the Arts Council. She also noted that the Open Space Tax percentage will be decided by July to go on the ballot in November and all interested parties will be notified when the discussions take place. She said that the Infrastructure and Operations subcommittee brought up the issue of a Parks Director and they are working on the organizational chart and trying to decide if the recreation maintenance staff should be with the Parks Director, Public Works or remain under the umbrella of the Recreation Dept. She said Brad Middlekoff runs this subcommittee and she will send Wasserman his contact information to ensure the PEC is included in these discussions. She said one concern is the huge pressure to show in the organizational chart that money was saved, so we don't want the budget to grow with a new Parks Director. The Commission then held a brief discussion on who would be best fit for this position whether that

person should come from within the municipality (Greg O'Neil) or whether it should be someone else. It was decided that the PEC would work with the Shade Tree Commissions and Friends of Princeton Open Space to come up with a job description for the Parks Director.

- b) **Borough Updates:** Fichtenbaum stated that she attended the Borough Council meeting for the discussion on the Avalon Bay ordinance. She said she was "beeped" when the time was up. She said she received an email from Butler the next day apologizing for the incident. Fichtenbaum responded to Butler's email by thanking her for the email and also offering some helpful information on green building standards. Crumiller noted that there will be a small group that will meet with the developer and asked if Fichtenbaum would like to attend as well. The PEC then held a lengthy discussion on the hospital ordinance as well as the Avalon Bay proposal noting that when Fichtenbaum meeting with the developer she should prioritize the green building standards that the PEC would like to see implemented. Some of the issues discussed were the affordable housing element and energy efficient models, perhaps taking away items such as the leasing office and sign approval in order to get a compromise on the green building standards. It was suggested that the PEC try and set up a meeting with ZARC in order to get green building standards in the ordinances. It was also decided that the PEC would form questions and send them to the Borough Attorney for a responses regarding green building standards and affordable housing. It was brought to the PEC attention that the original hospital ordinance is still in place, and the developer can start the process based on that ordinance. It was decided that the PEC would get its questions to Crumiller who then in turn would forward them to the Council's attorney.
- c) **Recycling:** Wasserman said he thinks this discussion is based on whether or not the PEC should be advocating for more recycling than what is being done presently, such as recycling 3-7's. Hiltner said that, in part because it's the county's decision whether to add to the list of accepted recyclables, not Princeton's, his main concern is whether or not the PEC is receiving good information from township and county staff. A number of key staff assertions at the February meeting did not check out when researched afterward, according to Hiltner, and the county staffer would not provide sources for his information when later asked by Lempert. Wasserman said he is not sure that is an issue for the PEC and looked to Lempert as to whether that is something that should be discussed at the PEC level or should it be discussed offline. Lempert suggested that is not something to be discussed but what the PEC should be deciding is whether or not it would like to see 3-7's recycled knowing that they are being sent overseas. A discussion was then held and it was noted that perhaps if enough 3-7 recyclables were collected it would generate additional and more local markets for them, as Lyons from Rutgers has indicated. Lempert suggested that a contact be made with Mercer County and have them investigate whether or not the 3-7's are shipped overseas or if they are processed locally. Hiltner noted that in a recent phone call with an expert on NJ recycling, he had learned that 60% of all recyclables are sent overseas, and that plastics 3-7 are not unique in this regard. It was decided that the Waste and Energy subcommittee would

research this issue and then come back with a motion on whether or not the PEC should pursue this.

- d) **Recreation Update:** Herlihy invited everyone to the Grand Opening of the new Community Park Pool on Saturday May 26, 2012 at 11:30; she said light refreshments would be served.
- e) **Chairs Report:** Wasserman reminded everyone of the Stream Clean up on April 29, 2012 at the Washington Road canal from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. He also said that he had a discussion with Deb Rogers about applicants submitting electronic copies of their application packets. It was suggested that the PEC send something to the Regional Planning Board, asking them to make a recommendation to Township Committee and Borough Council requiring this in the checklists. He said the applicant would provide its normal required set of hard-copy plans and then submit an electronic copy as well. A motion was made and seconded for the PEC to send a request to the Regional Planning Board asking them to send a recommendation to the governing bodies requiring applicants to submit at least one copy of their application packets in electronic form. Wasserman also noted that there is approximately \$17,000 in its trust accounts that can be used perhaps for the organics program to encourage people to enroll in it.
- f) **Open Space Subcommittee:** Applegate noted that Chatham Township Environmental Commission is concerned about detention basins and would like to create a map of all detention basins in the state. She also noted that there are 2 detention basins in Barnegat that have failed as she is curious as to why. She said she thinks it would be a good idea for these basins to have plantings that retain water and make the area more attractive both visually and for wildlife. Hiltner noted that there are 2 detention basins on municipal properties that have been successfully naturalized. It was also suggest that a planting list be developed for Homeowners Associations to use for their basins. It was decided that Applegate will sit down with the Township Engineer, Bob Kiser to discuss this and see if it something the PEC should be involved in.
- g) **Green Building Subcommittee:** Crumiller said she is trying to schedule a meeting with ZARC concerning this issue and there is also a meeting scheduled with Avalon Bay reps on Monday to discuss green building standards that may be included in their proposal.
- h) **Waster & Energy:** Nothing to report
- i) **Development Review Subcommittee:** Hamilton reported on the Hun School Global Commons application. She said they are proposing a 30,000 square foot two-story building. She noted that they have storm-water management credits from previous construction. It was noted in the Engineers report that they are trying to obtain LEED Silver certification for the proposed building. It was decided that the PEC needed a bit more time to submit comments and Wasserman would advise Deb so she could pass it on to the Planning Board.
- j) **Health Commission:** Rojer noted that the Commission developed an ordinance for the safe playing fields and its attorneys are now reviewing it. A response from the attorneys should be forthcoming in the near future.

- k) **Regional Planning Board:** Ullman commented on the Princeton University Hibben Magee project noting that it was virtually impossible for them to rehab the current building – they need to demolish it and build something new. However, they will be recycling 95% of the construction debris. She said they are tracking LEED Silver certification. She said the impervious coverage will be reduced as there will be no onsite parking.
- l) **Quaker Road Grant:** Lempert noted that the Township received a grant to extend the Quaker Road Pathway. She said the path will eventually go from the Princeton Friends School to the Canal. She also noted that Mercer County will be rehabbing the bridge over the canal.

VI. Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Rogers, Secretary

Date Approved: May 23, 2012