

## PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting of July 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 7:35 p.m.

Present were: Wasserman, Kaczerski, Hiltner, Miller, Fichtenbaum, Ullman, Rojer, and Lempert

Absent were: Hamilton, Applegate, Herlihy and Crumiller

There was one member of the public present that will speak during the ZARC discussion.

### 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 23, 2012 as written and amended.

### V. Discussions and Decisions:

- a) **Township Updates:** Lempert said that there is legislation that would allow private schools like Princeton University to bypass local zoning regulations. She said this bill passed the Senate and is now in the Assembly. She urged everyone to sign the online petition and to urge to do so as well. She suggested that the PEC try and push ANJEC to do more to rally opposition. Secondly, she briefly mentioned the tree inventory and noted that it will take approximately 3 years to complete.
- b) **Borough Update:** (Crumiller was not in attendance so Lempert gave the update) Lempert said that Township Committee and Borough Council passed a resolution to put the 1.7 cents Open Space Tax question on the November ballot. She noted that once consolidation is fully in place, there will be a better accounting of the funds by having it in a separate account.
- c) **SPRAB:** Wasserman explained that Applegate did not feel she had the expertise to be the SPRAB rep any longer and it was decided that Fichtenbaum would be the Township SPRAB rep of the PEC.

**d) ZARC Update:** Julie Nachamkin, Chair of the ZARC (Zoning Amendment Review Committee) of the Regional Planning Board discussed the mission of ZARC and how everything works. She said requests for changes will come in to the Planning Board and they are forwarded to ZARC. ZARC in turn researches the subject, and then passes it on to governing body. If the governing body has an affirmative vote on the change then it comes back to the Planning Board for discussion and recommendations and then back to the governing body for adoption. She noted that the LEED standards are on the agenda for the next ZARC meeting. There was a discussion that followed about green building standards and whether or not they could be ordinances or just added to a checklist to bring attention to them. It was suggested that the governing body be approached about these standards and see if there is support there before a lot of work has been put into it to only find out there is no support. If there is support, research and legal guidance would be needed. It was also suggested that perhaps “sustainable overlay zones” be created as guidance prior to any ordinances changes. It was noted that the Planning Board would like to add a sustainability element to the Master Plan and that would allow others to move forward with other more specific ordinances. The PEC will be forwarding the research it has done on green building standards and checklists to ZARC. Lempert said she would mention the ZARC meeting and green building standards at the Township Committee meeting in August. It was also suggested that the DCA be brought in on these discussions.

**e) Chairs Report:**

- a) Wasserman said the job description of the Parks Director is now in the hands of Welmoet van Kammen (Shade Tree Commission)
- b) Wasserman asked everyone to review the Boards and Commission subcommittee recommendations for the PEC and send comments to him.
- c) Wasserman noted that in regards to Waste and Energy, he has a call into the DEP to see what would be involved with the town managing its own compost facility. Kaczerski noted that staff should be working on this; it is a lot of responsibility and work for a volunteer.

Wasserman left the meeting

**f) Leaf/Brush:** Lempert said that the Township is divided into 4 zones for leaf and brush pick up and there is a weekly schedule that they adhere to. She said every couple of weeks the Borough has a picked up and there have been some discussions that there are some sections of the Borough that need more frequent pick-ups wherein the Township the lots are larger and can hide the leaves and brush more easily. She said the overall pickups will be reduced to 3 times a year instead of 4. She suggested that the PEC push homeowners to compost on their own properties. It was suggested that there be a central location where homeowners can bring their yard waste instead of storing it on their properties. She said the emergency storm pick -ups and the bag program will continue as it always has.

**g) Open Space:** Miller said that Borough Council passed the Open Space Tax language for the November referendum, and he is working on the language to send out to the residents to support this question. It was suggested that the letter

have the same language as the referendum and once a draft has been developed that it is sent to Matt for review. Miller also noted that the DEP has not moved on the local pesticide ordinance and he will follow up with them again. He also said he read about a grant for \$600,000.00 for Community Health projects that he thought the Town might be interested in applying for. It was noted that the application timing is now over for the grant. Miller also stated that Applegate has been busy working on the detention basin issue. Fichtenbaum said she received a map from Applegate that locates all the basins in the Town. She said she scanned it and had given hardcopies to Applegate to bring to the meeting. It was suggested that pictures be taken of each site so that a naturalization plan can be implemented and in the meantime maybe some type of funding can be obtained.

- h) Development Review Subcommittee:** Kaczerski said she receives a pending application log from the Planning Board each month and she noted that on the log it states that the Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart is proposing to install geo-thermal heating. She inquired about a few of the projects with Ullman and it was decided that she would follow up with Solow regarding the other pending applications.
- i) Health Commission:** Rojer noted that the Health Commission is currently working on a noise ordinance for leaf-blowers and generators.
- j) Regional Planning Board:** Ullman noted that the 2 applications for Avalon Bay (Township and Borough) have been deemed incomplete. She noted that the Planning Office is willing to give the PEC a copy of the application packet, but it should be known that there are items that may change as the application works its way through completeness. She also noted that there is a concern that the turnover in towns could give grounds for legal suits with this application if it is not finished prior to the end of the year.

**VI. Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Debra Rogers, Secretary**

**Date Approved:** October 24, 2012