

## PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### Minutes of Meeting of September 19, 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. Vice Chair Fichtenbaum opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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

Absent were: Hamilton, Hiltner, Ullman

Also present was Marvin Reed to discuss the Circulation Element

**\*\*There was not a quorum present so the agenda and minutes were not approved\*\***

#### III. Discussion and Decisions:

- a) **Township Update:** Lempert said that Princeton Future will be holding a meeting at the Library on September 22, 2012. She also said that the jug handle trial on Route #1 has not been well received. She encouraged the PEC to write a letter stating its position on the DOT trial. She also noted that the dams are finally finished at Mountain Lakes and she encouraged the members to go see how nice it all turned out.
- b) **Borough Updates:** Crumiller noted that the Avalon Bay application will be going to SPRAB in the near future. She said that the Shade Tree Commission in both the Township and Borough are melding nicely.
- c) **Master Plan – Circulation Element Draft Review:** Mr. Reed said that the Regional Planning Board (RPB) has been reviewing the master plan for the past 2 years. He said a lot of updating has been done on the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation elements. He said they are now at a point where they have a final draft of the circulation element. He discussed some of the changes that were made such as eliminating any bypasses that were in the document, he said the Towns still pledge to have 2 lanes, tree-lined streets. He said right now 27,000 people come into Princeton everyday; 6,000 work here in Princeton and 6,000 leave Princeton to work in another area, but essentially the population of Princeton doubles during the day. He said one of the main emphasis' right now

is that while there will always be growth, the town cannot afford anymore automobiles; so the plan is encouraging walking, biking and the use of public transportation. He said they have added more encouragement for sidewalks and crosswalks, more trails and more improvement of mass transit. He noted that the Bicycle Committee would like to adopt a whole bike plan for Princeton. He said the RPB contacted Wasserman to get comments from the PEC concerning the element. The PEC then discussed the following items pertaining to the circulation element; walking vs biking; widening sidewalks, widening streets and paths without removing trees, the development of the hospital site will bring more automobiles and children, ultimate goal is to reduce CO2 in the atmosphere. Lempert noted that there is not much in the element regarding parking, and that the RPB should encourage developers to use zip cars. It was noted that if parking is reduced it doesn't reduce business for the merchants. Reed noted that there will be a master plan subcommittee meeting on October 8, 2012 and he would like all comments submitted to him by then.

- d) **Leaf & Brush:** Fichtenbaum said that Hiltner sent out an email with his report and asked if anyone had questions. Below is the email that was sent by Hiltner  
**Recycling:** During my summer travels, both cities I visited (Ann Arbor and Cleveland Heights) recycle plastics 1-7, with the exception of styrofoam. Relevant to the ethics of sending recyclables overseas, I happened upon a documentary on PBS, called Waste Land, which depicts the lives of recyclables collectors at a giant landfill in Brazil. They pick through the trash and make \$25/day on the recyclables. They work in filth, but many are proud to be making honest living reclaiming materials. Trailer for the documentary is here: <http://www.wastelandmovie.com/index.html>.

**Storm water and Parking Lots:** Photos and text about Westminster Choir College storm water controls for new parking lot: <http://princetonprimer.blogspot.com/2012/07/stormwater-and-new-westminster-parking.html>

**Yard waste:** I would suggest the PEC and the new consolidated municipality consider giving residents the option to buy a rollout cart to put yard waste in, as an alternative, or to augment, the yard waste bags. This is what is done in Ann Arbor, MI, which composts its yard waste on the outskirts of town. Fruit and vegetable waste, along with paper products, can be put in the carts along with the yard waste, and there are various sizes of cart available. I called the staff there and was told that no odor problems have been associated with inclusion of vegetable/fruit waste. Providing rollout cart option would require retrofitting trucks with a small lift in back, but these are very commonly used and if other municipalities do it, why not Princeton? Below is more information.

<http://www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/government/publicservices/fieldoperations/solidwasteunit/Compost/Pages/CompostCollection.aspx> Link includes this text:

**Optional Compost Carts**

The city sells optional wheeled carts for compost collection. The one-time cart purchase information is posted at [www.a2gov.org/carts](http://www.a2gov.org/carts). The city accepts a wider range of materials inside compost carts: fruit and vegetable waste, paper napkins,

and uncoated paper plates and paper cups--as well as grass clippings are accepted for municipal compost collection ONLY in Compost carts. Compostables do not need to be bagged or bundled inside the cart.

- e) **ZARC:** Fichtenbaum said that Lee Solow will be presenting the green building checklist on 9/24/12. She said it is something to use with developers who are requesting site plan approval. She said it would be helpful for the town and people who review the applications to understand what they are doing without having to dig for the information. She said the environmental impacts would be more easily understood. She said the green building subcommittee has also been working on area's that may need environmental changes in certain areas. Lempert noted that the new owners of the shopping center have brought up sustainability retro-fits. Fichtenbaum said they have their own green building checklist and hopefully they will attend the next PEC meeting. She said it would be nice to see them set themselves as a model for the community.
- f) **Open Space:** Miller stated that he drafted a letter to the voters from the PEC urging people to vote for the open space tax. He read the letter into the record. A motion was made and seconded and the PEC voted unanimously for the letter to be submitted to the Editors in support of the Open Space Tax. It was noted that the School Board will be doing sustainable upgrades to the schools now that the budget has been approved. Applegate said she has not had time to work on the retention basins but will be photographing them in the near future. Miller also noted that he has been tracking the pesticide for Safe Playing Fields Act and said it has been bouncing around with no real action being taken on it.

- IV. **Development Review Subcommittee:** Kaczerski started by discussing the Arts & Transit application from Princeton University. She said she is just beginning to review the application but noted that the engineering report was very detailed and very well done. She said the engineering report shows a lot of concern for trees and requests clarification in certain areas. She said there will be meetings at SPRAB for the presentations by Princeton University. She said PEC will arrange an adhoc meeting to vote on the PEC memo for this project. Fichtenbaum encouraged everyone to attend the adhoc meeting. Lempert noted that the SPRAB and PEC reports are key for the Regional Planning Board. (Wasserman arrived). Kaczerski noted that there will be massive amounts of trees removed and it looks as though they have a very good storm water management plan.
- V. **Recreation Dept:** Herlihy said the pool was a great success this year. She noted that the membership increased by close to 42%. She said they are now working on punch list items and will be working on that for some time. She also said the slide was loved by many.
- VI. **Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 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" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Rogers".

**Debra Rogers, Secretary**

**Date Approved: October 24, 2012**