

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 23, 2013– 8:15 pm
Meeting Room A, 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 municipal Clerk.

II. Chair Wasserman opened the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Present were: Kaczerski, Wasserman, Fichtenbaum, Rojer, Ullman, Birge, Patil, Zemble, Molina, Chorney and Crumiller

Absent was: Herlihy

There were two (2) 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 prepared.

IV. Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded and those members who were present at the December 12, 2012 meeting voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written and amended.

V. Public Comment:

Tom KcKeon from the Stony Brook Millstone watershed Assoc spoke briefly to the Commission about future stream clean-ups that the association will be holding. He asked if there would be anyone from the PEC that would like to organize one of the clean-ups. He also noted that on 4/27/13 the SBMWA will be holding a rain barrel workshop if anyone is interested in attending. He said the SBMWS has a grant to give out 53 rain barrels to anyone living in the watershed area and is interested in having one. It was suggested that he contact the schools to

see if there is a teacher who might be willing to lead students in a group to do one of the clean-ups.

Pat ** from the Unitarian Church said she will be coming to the PEC meetings to report back to the churches “going green” group about what the PEC is working on.

VI. Administrative Matters:

Wasserman suggested that each member introduce themselves and state what it is that interested them about the PEC.

Wasserman said the PEC needed to appoint a Vice Chair of the commission. He said the Vice Chair would help plan the agendas and run the meetings when the Chair could not be present.

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to appoint Heidi Fichtenbaum as Vice Chair of the PEC for the year 2013.

Wasserman said the PEC also needed to appoint a secretary. He said he spoke to Ms. Rogers and she was willing to continue but if anyone had anyone that may be interested, he would be willing to entertain it.

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to appoint Debra Rogers as secretary of the PEC for the year 2013.

Wasserman also explained that the PEC needed to adopt various resolutions regarding noticing and the 2013 meeting schedule for the PEC.

A motion was made and seconded and the PEC voted unanimously to adopt the 2013 Open Public Meetings Act Resolutions for the year 2013, with the exception that the June date should be the 26th not the 27th and to remove the August meeting date as the PEC does not meet in August.

VII. Discussions and Decisions:

Crumiller said the Council voted to on an annual registration fee of \$65.00 per household for the Food Waste Program. She said she would look into updating the website with the new information. She said the

town will be sending out a letter to all of the residents explaining the program. Wasserman also noted that Sustainable Princeton received a \$20,000.00 grant to market the program.

The Commission briefly discussed “fracking” and the recent resolution that was passed on the state level. Wasserman said he will reach out to the state and see if a representative could attend next months meeting to discuss this.

A question raised asking what the interaction is between and schools and the town regarding environmental issues. Chorney explained that Sustainable Princeton has a working group called “Green Schools Coalition” and they meet with the school board facilities committee to discuss: infrastructure, instruction and central development to decrease the energy use and perhaps integrating sustainability into the curriculum. Kaczerski also noted that a school board member now sits on the Planning Board. A question was raised about the municipality using electric cars to save energy and money. Wasserman said these topics speak to what people are interested in and its something the Commission will focus on when it comes to the 2013 goals and the types of subcommittees that will be formed.

Wasserman also noted that the PEC needs to appoint someone to SPRAB. There was then a brief discussion on what SPRAB does, and how it is an advisory board like the PEC and how the Planning Board relies on its report as it does the PEC report. It was suggested that the Development Review Subcommittee should be formed prior to appointing someone to SPRAB and it would be good for one of those members to also attend the SPRAB meetings. Kaczerski and Fichtenbaum said they will prepare a summary of the workings of this subcommittee and bring it to the next meeting of the PEC. Wasserman noted that this subcommittee is very important as there will be some large applications that will be coming to the town in the future; for example the hospital site, the Boychoir School and the Tiger Noodle area.

Wasserman said the big focus this year will be for a Parks Director. He said he has been working with Lempert and Crumiller on what this topic. He said Lempert has stated that this can be a mayoral appointment to test the waters and have some oversight on the management of the parks.

There was a suggestion that perhaps this director can focus on making the parks more sustainable. Wasserman noted that the issue can be something that the open space subcommittee will work on.

Wasserman said with regards to the other subcommittees – recycling is being pursued by Sustainable Princeton; the leaf management group was working on safety issues pertaining to leaves being in the streets. Crumiller noted that the leaves will not be picked up weekly in the Borough area as it had been in the past, they will be picked up a couple times a year as the Township currently does. The Commission discussed getting information out to the community about leaves and how it is very important for the public to understand safety and composting.

Wasserman said he provided the members with a list of the subcommittees and he asked everyone to think about them and perhaps think of other topics and be prepared to be part of one or more of the subcommittees.

VIII. Reports from Liaisons:

- a) **Board of Health:** Rojer noted that the Board of Health had its first meeting and most of that meeting was spent reorganizing. He said the Board will be focusing on a list of areas in the community that are vulnerable so they can keep an eye on those areas especially in an emergency. Kaczerski asked if the Board was going to take a stand on the pesticides issue. Rojer said the former Health Commission submitted an ordinance to the DEP and were told the ordinance would not be possible. Wasserman suggested speaking with the Health Official to see when the ordinance could be re-written and submitted to the DEP.
- b) **Planning Board:** Ullman said the Planning Board will be reorganizing – the Board now is smaller and has alternates where it did not before. She also noted that the green building checklist will be a top priority of the Planning Board this year. Wasserman said he may ask Lempert to come to the PEC to give the members an overview of functions for all of the Boards and Commissions.
- c) Wasserman asked if anyone was interested in being the coordinator for the Stream Clean-up. He said if no one is interested he will bring this to Diane Landis at Sustainable Princeton.
- d) Wasserman said the PEC will go through all of the goals next month and then follow-up by developing subcommittees. He suggested that

everyone be prepared to discuss where they want to focus put forth their efforts.

IX. Adjournment:

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Rogers, Secretary

Date Approved: February 27, 2013