

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 23, 2013– 7:30 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. Fichtenbaum opened the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Present were: Kaczerski, Fichtenbaum, Ullman, Zemble, Chorney, Rojer, Molina Wasserman, Welles, Spindel and Herlihy

Absent was: Crumiller

III. Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the changes that Wasserman suggested. He added the Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority and rearranging the items under Discussions and Decisions

IV. Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the September 18, 2013 minutes as written and amended.

V. Public Comment:

- a) Jan Weinberg talked to the Commission about how the PEC is empowered to do as much research as possible when reviewing applications. He said he sat through all of the Avalon Bay meetings at the Planning Board. He said there were only 2 members of the Planning Board that asked for soil testing and the final resolution did not have a guarantee that there would be soil testing done. He said he walked away from those hearings feeling as if something was missing. He said he filed an OPRA request with the NJDEP to see if there was ever a Medical Waste Incinerator and he went through the Historical Society archives looking for information. He said he found a 1948 brochure that showed the incinerator and the NJDEP also gave him documentation of an incinerator on site. He said the New Jersey statutes give environmental commissions the power to do deeper research. He said he is setting up a trip to the ANJEC office and asked if any PEC members would be interested in attending. Wasserman and Zemble offered to attend. He said he put together a 23 page document on the research he did concerning the incinerator and encouraged interested parties to contact Wasserman for the document.

- b) David Goldfarb, Chair of the PSOC and Board member of the Stony Brook Regional Sewage Authority said that the greatest contribution that Princeton has made to the environment is a sewage collection system. He said for the past 20 years they have been improving the collection system and trying to repair the erroneous leaks that occur. He handed out a chart to the PEC members which showed the peaks and flows, leaks and the older and new systems. He said Princeton has an average use of 3.5 million gallons of water a day and that number is down about a million gallons a day as compared to years ago. He said they are tightly regulated with regards to their incinerators and they have invested greatly to reduce odors. He said they will continue to do improvements to help the environment. He said he would like the PEC to recognize the importance of the work that they have done to reduce impacts on the environment. For instance, he said the town a more effective and efficient sewer use and they would like the support of the PEC. He said there may come a time when the SBRSA will need the backing of other groups and entities and he asked for support from the PEC. He said he would love to come back to the PEC from time to time and give updates. There was then a discussion about the possibility of a PEC member on the Sewer Board and Goldfarb explained that it was discussed years ago to have a PEC member on a subcommittee; however the subcommittee has ceased to exist.
- c) Wasserman said there has been a lot happening over the summer regarding the Transco Pipe Line. He said one issue was Princeton becoming an “intervener” with FERC. He said Princeton Council did pass a resolution to become and intervener and is in the process of doing so. He asked Katrina from Food and Water Watch to discuss the specifics, Katrina referred to the PEC resolution and that resolution states the justification for becoming an intervener. She said once Princeton’s intervener status is approved, it will give it the ability to appeal. She said the Princeton needs to justify why FERC needs Princeton as a stakeholder. She said the PEC and Princeton need a strong statement in there that portrays Princeton’s concerns with the pipeline and the environment. She said the current resolution can be cut down to one page with that page containing the strongest statements for justification. She said to review each point and see if it is something that you feel is strong enough to be included. She noted that this will be a joint venture with Montgomery. Wasserman noted that he spoke with Lempert and Crumiller and they would like the statement to be as broad as possible. He said the reason this is a joint venture with Montgomery is because Schmierer is the attorney for both towns and there may be cost savings by doing it jointly. Katrina noted that the deadline for submission to for intervener status is October 31, 2013. Wasserman noted that the town has every intention of making the deadline. Wasserman noted that the PEC would continue to work with Food and Water Watch and the Council to get this statement on record,
- d) Eric Tengi – Stony Brook Millstone Watershed said that he is the new ambassador and he wanted to introduce himself to the PEC. He said he would like to work with the PEC to set up a rain barrel workshop, but most importantly to establish a relationship with the PEC.

VI. Decisions and Discussions:

- a) **Council Update:** Wasserman said that Crumiller sent an update saying that garbage cans are on their way for Nassau Street. She also noted that the Shade Tree Commission has been planting trees in the town. She said they are also working on combining the ordinance and that it will take some time to do because the ordinances were very different. Wasserman noted that the PEC will want to weigh in on that ordinance. He also said that the amount of trash that is being collected is less than what the contract had called for. The town is looking into the reasons why the numbers are so off. He said some of the reason could be the organics programs and the number of households who are now composting.
- b) **PEC Ordinance:** Ullman said that all of the ordinances from both towns are in the process of being reviewed. The PEC ordinance adopted on 1/1/2013 for the consolidated Princeton addressed only membership and was developed to make sure that the PEC had legal standing in the new town. The Council will be reviewing and combining the original Borough and Township ordinances sometime in the future. With the exception of the section on membership, the contents of the two ordinances are identical and could be easily collated. She recommends that the PEC take the initiative to review the ordinances and discuss possible revisions that would correctly reflect the priorities of the community and the commission. Wasserman inquired about the timing for this. Ullman said the sooner the better. . Wasserman noted that this would be a great opportunity to utilize ANJEC which may have a model ordinance that could guide the PEC. He said he would like to submit an ordinance recommendation by early 2014. Ullman said she will circulate the old township and borough ordinances as well as the new one so that everyone can familiarize themselves with them. Wasserman said the mayor's ideas as well. [is something missing here?] .
- c) **Waste Update:** Chorney said she had a good meeting with Ullman and Rojer and that the Sustainable Princeton subcommittee will be moving things forward. She said they are coming up with a plan to move businesses to recycle. She said they are working on placing recycle bins downtown and also looking into the Organics Program for the businesses. She said they are still working on a timeline and she will report back as things start moving. She said they are also looking into a waste audit. She said right now the Borough and the Township Waste ordinances still need to be combined. She said the Council is working with staff to go through the ordinances.
- d) **Fichtenbaum** presented a list of items that the PEC may want to see included in ordinances. She said she would like everyone to look at the list and pick the top 3 or 4 that are important to them. She said she did not include 'green buildings items' on the list because when the green checklist was drafter, the PEC received a lot of pushback saying that the town could not make ordinances any more stringent that what the construction codes are. She said perhaps the PEC could start taking pieces of the list and work on that. She suggested that perhaps the PEC could focus on items that were problematic for previous application. For instance, she said if a use changes from an industrial use to something, maybe

there could be something in the ordinance that states that when this occurs soil testing must be performed. The PEC discussed different items on the list such as up-lighting, waste, energy, use intensity, demolition debris, rainwater harvesting, pervious paving, water use, organic lawn-care, bicycle storage and electric charging stations for automobiles. Wasserman said that the PEC needs to put the right amount of time and energy into this project. He said if someone has a special interest, to please send that information on to Fichtenbaum. The PEC briefly discussed the power of the Shade Tree Commission and enforcement of trees that are planted in the Town right-of-way.

- e) Chairs Report: Wasserman handed out a map of the Princeton Ridge East Conservation Area. He said the town hired Mr. Van Clef to look into a vision of continuing a loop (path) on the Ridge. He said some of the areas shown on the map do not exist yet, but asked the members to look at the map, maybe walk the area and provide feedback to him. He said the idea is to make sure there are access points along the loop.

Wasserman said there is an upcoming D&R Dredging Project. He said this project will run from Route 27 to Canal Pointe and won't actually happen in Princeton, but the town is interested in staying informed about the project and the trees that will be removed. He said the work will begin in the spring of 2014.

Wasserman asked the members to check out the website greenamerica.org. He said it's a great site to look around.

Wasserman mentioned that there is an energy audit that is being done by Sustainable Princeton and he encouraged folks to sign up.

Wasserman noted that there is no "leaf" subcommittee this year. He said the PEC has asked for enforcement but it just doesn't exist. He did note that the Public Works Dept did send a reverse 911 call that alerted residents to the upcoming week's pick-up schedule. He said the PEC has certainly tried to tackle this in the past and they can try again in 2014.

Wasserman asked the members to consider becoming involved with the Development Review Sub-committee. He said as of January 2014 there will only be one member of the subcommittee and historically this subcommittee has consisted of 3 people. He said this is one of the most important subcommittees of the PEC. He said they generally see the development applications first, read through them and then cite appropriate recommendations for the PEC to vote on.

- f) Fichtenbaum noted that she will be attending the Green Build conference in Philadelphia this year. She said she is looking forward to the conference and will report back to the PEC in December.

g) Board of Health: Rojer said the Health Officer transition seems to be going smoothly and they are actively searching for a replacement. He also noted that the Flu Shot Clinic went very well.

VII. Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Rogers, Secretary

Date Approved: November 13, 2013