

**PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 18, 2014– 7:30pm**  
**Meeting Room A, Witherspoon Hall**  
**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. Wasserman opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.**

Present were: Wasserman, Fichtenbaum, Zemble, Molina, Chorney, Welles, Spindel, Molina, Welles, Miller and Crumiller

Absent were: Marcus-Levine and Birge

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.

**IV. Minutes:**

- a) May 28, 2014: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

**V. Public Comment:**

No comments

**VI. Decisions and Discussions:**

- a) **Council Updates:** Crumiller noted that the PEC ordinance was passed. She noted that the Recreation Dept. wants to be kept in the loop with the PEC but at this time they will not be sending a representative to the meetings. Molina noted that the Recreation Dept. is now in charge of Parks and she thinks they should be in attendance at the meetings. Wasserman stated that the PEC can pull in a representative when Park issues are being discussed.

Crumiller stated that she attended an Energy seminar at Rutgers and she found it very disheartening too see all the data about fracking and fracking waste. She noted that the town has a rough draft of a fracking ordinance but was unable to include fracking waste. She said the Planning Director, Lee Solow was working on this ordinance when he fell ill. She said the ordinance will not be ready for the next meeting as Mr. Solow will be out for a short time.

Crumiller noted that the Shade Tree ordinance passed, the Branch & Leaf ordinance was tabled and the Landscaper ordinance passed. Landis asked if leaf blowers were restricted in any way. Crumiller said most landscapers use leaf blowers and as such, the question of enforcement comes into play. She said the noise level from the leaf blowers should be covered under the noise ordinance. Wasserman said the PEC should review the noise ordinance. Crumiller also noted that the landscapers should be encouraged to rake the leaves and not use leaf blowers.

- b) **July Meeting with Landscapers:** Wasserman read the most recent draft of an invitation letter that will be sent out to the Landscapers asking them to attend the July 23, 2014 meeting of the PEC. Landis suggested removing the portion that states they will be receiving a telephone call. Fichtenbaum said the telephone call is intended to get people to respond and let them know that it's an opportunity for them to let us know whether or not they will be attending. She said they need to realize that there are some big changes coming down the pike and if they want to have a "say" in the process, they should show up to the meeting. Suggestions were made to include phrases in the letter like the PEC wants to collaborate with the landscapers, let them know the PEC vision of mulch it, bag it and compost it and most importantly let them know that the PEC would like to have their input. Another suggestion was made to have a survey for them to fill out at the end of the meeting. Chorney suggested asking for their email addresses. Welles suggested having them sign in at the meeting with their name, address and email address for the PEC records. Wasserman said the leaf subcommittee will meet prior to the July meeting to finalize all the details. Sustainable Princeton will help with the mail-out of the letter to the landscapers.

## VII. Updates and Regular Business:

- a) **Broad Waste Management Ordinance:** Chorney noted that a letter went out to Public Works regarding an RFP for the garbage contract. She said the Public Works said they are getting such a good price that they don't want to do an RFP this year. Crumiller noted that Simon and Hough would like to sit down and discuss this with Wasserman because the composting is more expensive per ton than the garbage is. Chorney noted that it is more expensive because it is not required. Wasserman said he will reach out to Hough and Simon. He would like to see if they have some economical information that the PEC does not know about. Chorney noted that the Sustainable Princeton Waste Committee has met once and will be meeting again to focus on the 4 areas that were mentioned last month.
- b) **SPRAB:** Molina noted that the last meeting was canceled. She did note that 66 Witherspoon has some issues with the current zoning and they are planning on making some alterations because they want to have some outside seating.
- c) **Health:** Miller said the BOH discussed the inspection of businesses and whether or not they have the proper room for recycling. He said it will be handled by the County Environmental Health Officer. He said they are willing to add a check box on the inspection form for recycling so when they do the yearly inspections

they can check the recycling. With regards to Avalon Bay, he said there was a mystery incinerator that was found with a hidden passage way and a staircase that goes underneath of it with a 3 inch drainpipe. He said Whitman wants it sampled but it is up to the courts – they can overturn that and say that Avalon Bay does not have to do any sampling. He said everyone’s hands are tied until the court makes a determination. He also noted that there may be some asbestos in the flashing so they are holding off on removing that at this point.

- d) **Sustainable Princeton:** Landis noted that her office is full of people! She said that she has 2 interns and Christine has taken over for Andrea Malcolm who recently left. She said the certification application was submitted to the state. She said they are still gathering information on the fleet inventory and will be able to track the information in the future. She said they are also wrapping up the home energy audits, and will be creating a report and fact sheet that will be distributed to the PEC. She said they are also developing a letter for the businesses with regard to the pilot program. She said once the letter goes out, she and Pellichero will be walking around and speaking to the businesses about the program. Chorney noted that the schools have chosen a new food vendor that will provide more nutritious foods for the schools. It was also noted that Sustainable Princeton’s annual report will be presented to Council on August 11, 2014.
- e) **NJ Pace:** Fichtenbaum said the NJ Pace is the ability for towns to finance renewable energy programs. She said municipalities would have to enact an ordinance for the special assessment for the program. She said the PEC needs to look into this and perhaps have someone from NJ Pace come and give a presentation and if after a presentation the PEC thinks it would be viable, then the PEC should ask the town to enact an ordinance. Wasserman suggested that NJ Pace make a presentation to the business community.

**VIII. Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Debra Rogers, Secretary**

**Date Approved: July 23, 2014**