

**PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 22, 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. Fichtenbaum opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m.**

Present were: Fichtenbaum, Zemble, Molina, Chorney, Spindel, Marcus-Levine, Miller, Landis

Absent were: Wasserman, Crumiller

Brian Walker sat in as a perspective new member.

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the following addition of Parks and Rec discussion and Bag Fee discussion, fracking waste discussion.

**IV. Minutes:**

a) September 16, 2014: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

**V. Public Comment:** There was no public present.

**VI. Discussion/Decisions:**  
**Fracking**

Lauren Petrie from Food and Water Watch reported to council during the discussion on the fracking ban ordinance that another town included banning fracking waste in their ordinance. Legal council has indicated that federal and state law precludes local regulation of fracking waste. The PEC would like to explore challenging this opinion and recommended developing a joint memo with the Board of Health. Karen will prepare a draft fracking waste memo for review by the PEC. Stephanie will try to get ordinance from the town that passed a fracking waste ban ordinance. If successful Stephanie will forward the ordinance to Karen. Fracking ban ordinance was passed by council. Princeton fracking documents will be distributed to all PEC members.

PEC should write a memo informing council and Public Works that salts from fracking are being sold to municipalities to use on roads in winter. These salts contain chemical fracking waste and will end up in the soil and waterways. Reporting on these wastes is not required in NJ. The memo should recommend that fracking waste salts not be purchased for use in Princeton. The memo should be jointly prepared with the Board of Health. Steve to solicit support for the BOH for this memo.

### **Leave the Leaves**

Robo calls to residents notifying them of the leaf pick up schedule now include the PEC recommendation to leave the leaves. A concern was raised that piling leaves around trees can harm them. This should be clarified perhaps in a FAQ page on the municipal website and or PEC page. It might be helpful to have Public Works be more involved in the education effort. Sustainable Princeton can put educational material on its website and send out tweets on leave the leaves. Township website should link to PEC and SP educational material on this topic. There needs to be a public education campaign and a council education campaign. Diane suggested the PEC meet with or invite Bob Hough to understand what he does. The PEC, PW, Council should map out a plan and timeline to move from voluntary to mandatory leave the leaves policy. Karen will email material that can be used for educational purposes. Steve to solicit Board of Health memo supporting leave the leaves since piles of leaves in the street are hazardous to pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

### **Bag Fee Memo**

In addition to the memo there are signs encouraging citizens to vote yes on the plastic bag fee referendum. There are very few signs in Princeton but they should be placed in high visibility locations. Stephanie will contact Lance Liverman to see if he would be willing to have one on his corner lot on Witherspoon and Guyot.

### **Parks and Rec**

The task force that reviewed staff and organization for parks and recreation recommended a mid level position be created to coordinate volunteer efforts to maintain passive recreation/open space. Also recommended was the ability to draw on public works crews when needed. FOPOS wants a separate head for passive parks. Possible solutions could be a commission or committee that could coordinate volunteers and make recommendations to council. FOPOS is a non profit and is therefore not appropriate to play this role. PEC would like to understand FOPOS role and activities before making a recommendation to council. Molina will contact FOPOS for this information. This agenda item should be revisited at the next meeting.

### **Waste Memo**

The waste memo should be a recommendation to Council on environmental waste management. There are 5 key aspects:

- 1) goal of 50% waste reduction by 2016.
- 2) Track data on landfill, compost, leaf and brush and report numbers quarterly.
- 3) Create a timeline to reach goals with interim milestones.

4) Assign a staff person who has the waste reduction plan as part of their job description.

5) Establish a waste reduction management plan.

The information on waste reduction should be published in the Town Topics and listed on the municipal website. This could be compared to best practices and other similar size towns.

Other publicity could include a press release and article based on PEC testimony.

PEC should review other towns goals and plans including towns with net zero waste goals.

Of the five key aspects, three seem most important. A goal, a plan and a staff person whose job it is to implement the plan.

### **Council Liaison**

Jenny should be provided with talking points to share with the council at the end of each PEC meeting to keep council informed of PEC discussions, concerns and work.

This months talking points are as follows:

1) ban fracking waste salts from Princeton

2) memo on fracking waste is being worked on by the commission

3) municipality needs to actively participate in public education around leave the leaves. Municipality should implement leave the leaves for all municipal properties.

4) environmental information on municipal website should connect to PEC page and SP website for example: " Our town is a green town... Click here for more information"

5) waste memo is being worked recommending adoption of a waste goal, plan and coordinator.

### **Sustainable Princeton**

Silver certification was awarded to Princeton!

SP is hosting a Great Ideas Breakfast on Complete Streets

SP has prepared a zero waste information sheet -- the how to of reducing waste

SP is working with the town, schools and library to identify solar projects

SP is preparing a waste calendar.

**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: