

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 25, 2015– 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, Molina, Chorney, Marcus-Levine, Spindel, Walker, Miller and Simon

Absent were: Birge, Zemble and Landis

There were no members of the public present for the discussions

III. Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the amendment that item 7c on the agenda will be moved up for discussion.

IV. Minutes:

- a) December 14, 2014: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes.
- b) January 28, 2015: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes with the amendments that were suggested by Simon.

V. Public Comment: There were no members of the public present.

VI. Discussion and Decisions:

- a) **Board of Health:** Miller stated that it was suggested to have a PEC liaison to the BOH however, it is not permitted in the BOH by-laws. He said the Chair of the BOH will be looking into this request further. Miller also stated that he has thought the BOH had approved the Fracking Ordinance but that has been retracted until all members of the BOH have a chance to review it.
- b) **Planning Board:** Fichtenbaum noted that there will be a new development application coming to the PEC in the near future.
- c) **Council Updates:** Simon noted that Council had a 3 hour public hearing on the Bicycle Ordinance and ultimately Council tabled the ordinance until a Bicycle Master Plan is completed. He noted that the Bike/Ped Committee may hire an

outside consultant to help them complete the Master Plan, which, he said may take up to 3 years to complete. He said they are also working on a complete streets plan. He stated that if the PEC would like him to report on specific items, to please let him know. A discussion then ensued about why and why not Council should respond to the Board and Commission memos to at least show some sort of acknowledgment. Simon suggest that a member of the PEC raise this issue during the public comment portion of the Council meeting and to encourage other Boards and Commissions experiencing the same issue to attend the meeting as well so Council can see the frustrations. During this same conversation a question was asked as to whether or not the town could require any new development to take advantage of the state Clean Energy Programs. Simon stated that he didn't know the answer to that. Molina stated that she can bring it up at a SPRAB meeting and see if it could be a requirement. Fichtenbaum said that developers should be compelled to use these incentives.

- d) **Bag Ordinance:** Chorney stated that this topic was discussed last month, however there were changes that needed to be made and she is also waiting for the BOH approval as well. Wasserman asked if the PEC needed to vote on this. Chorney said yes. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the ordinance.
- e) **Final Leaf & Brush Memo:** Wasserman noted that he received an email from Hough stating that it would be too hard to gather the information that we requested for previous years, however, we will be able to get the data going forward. After minor corrections, a motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the memo.
- f) **Waste Memo:** Chorney noted that she will be presenting this memo at the Council meeting on March 9, 2015 – she is working on a PowerPoint and coming up with 3 or 4 goals for Council as well as a timeline. Simon noted that he may not be at that meeting. Chorney asked Simon to let her know so she could present the memo at a meeting that he will be attending.
- g) **Bike Ordinance:** Chorney stated that there is a whole section in the Green Building Checklist that applies to bicycles and she was wondering if the PEC should work with the Bike/Ped Committee on this. It was stated that the ordinance should be just like any other Land Use ordinance and developers should be compelled to have certain standards for multi-family, commercial and single-family development. Chorney noted that she was contacted by Sam Bunting, Chair of the Ped/Bike Committee and he will let her know if he will come to a PEC meeting or just meet with Chorney. Wasserman asked Chorney what action she is looking for from the PEC. Chorney suggested inviting that Committee to come to a PEC meeting. Wasserman stated that the Ped/Bike Committee should take the lead on this ordinance and then when it's finished, they can present it to the PEC. Fichtenbaum noted that she can share her research with them. Simon said the next meeting of the Bike/Ped Committee will be the tomorrow. Fichtenbaum said she will try and attend that meeting.
- h) **Fracking Waste Ban:** Nothing to discuss
- i) **PEC Memo's:** Molina asked if the PEC can compel SPRAB to read and incorporate the PEC recommendations on all applications. Wasserman noted

that part of the process should be that the applicant acknowledges the recommendations on the record. Fichtenbaum noted that there are certain items that are standard recommendations in every memo such as a Waste Management Plan and constructions debris recycling plan and an indoor air quality plan. She said she would like to see these items become requirements.

- j) **Chairs Report:** Wasserman stated that the annual Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Stream Clean-up will be held on with April 11 or April 18th, he will advise when a date is determined. He also stated that there will be Environmental Commission training sponsored by ANJEC on Saturday March 21 from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm in Pennington, he encouraged all to attend. Lastly, he stated that ANJEC is sponsoring a Stewardship Grant. He said this is something that the Friends of Princeton Open Space wants to steward with the help from the PEC. He said he would like to get PEC approval for this and he will serve as the liaison to the FOPOS for the PEC. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve PEC partnering with FOPOS on this grant.
- k) **Leaf Ordinance Subcommittee:** Wasserman said that the PEC wanted to try and reach out to the landscapers again after the low attendance rate at the meeting in the fall and wondered if the PEC wanted to work on this. He also noted that the Mayor said the landscapers are not required to register with the town. He suggested giving a short survey to the landscapers at the same time that they are registering with the town. Fichtenbaum stated that given the “leave the leaves” initiative, perhaps the PEC should first work with the people who oversee the ground maintenance of the town and the schools. She said they are continuously blowing the leaves out into the street. Simon suggested that the PEC come to a work session of Council to discuss the leaves and waste. Wasserman noted that the PEC will be making a presentation to Council about waste. Simon asked if this has been given to the towns Business Administrator. Wasserman said no it has not. Simon suggested meeting with Mr. Dashield first to discuss and see what his thoughts are. He said he would take the lead and set up the meeting for Wasserman.
- l) **Communication:** Spindel stated that she and Marcus-Levine have been discussing whether or not they should get interested members of the public to help communicate the PEC issues and perhaps also come to the meetings. She asked if the PEC should utilize the contact lists from Sustainable Princeton or if they should create a new list just for the PEC. She also inquired about whether or not they are permitted to create a Facebook page and perhaps a survey for the website. Wasserman stated that he would be an advocate for the PEC developing its own list as there may be conflicts with the Sustainable Princeton lists on certain topics. Spindel suggested using the Sustainable Princeton lists to get the bigger issues out the public quicker. Simon noted that communication is something that Council is also working on this year. Marcus-Levine stated that they had a very good meeting with Landis, however she is not sure that all of the ideas that were brought up would be good for the PEC. Wasserman stated that it is ok to push back on some if the ideas. Wasserman also noted that the PEC ordinance states that it need Council approval for anything that it does. He

suggested bringing the Facebook and website ideas to Simon and let him get answers from Council. Simon noted that Council will be forming a communication subcommittee to deal with issues such as these.

m) Green checklist: Molina asked if this checklist was something that was set in stone. Wasserman stated that the checklist is a document that will continuously be looked at and the PEC will continue to make changes to it as it sees fit.

VII. Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at (:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Mercantini

Date Approved: March 25, 2015