

**PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 27, 2016– 7:30 pm**  
**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 7:35 p.m.**

Present were: Fichtenbaum, Walker, Zemble, Glovier, Sacks, DiFerdinando, Symington and Lempert

Absent were: Marcus-Levine, Czarny and Birge

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

**IV. Minutes:**

- a) **February 24, 2016 and March 23, 2016:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes for February and March 2016.

**V. Decision and Discussions:**

- a) **Council Update:** Lempert stated the STC has been working on the emerald ash bores and they will be coming to Council to give a presentation. She stated that is cost prohibitive to cure all the trees and the STC will be addressing that. Fichtenbaum stated that she spoke with member(s) of the STC about this because the PEC is concerned about it and will support other groups that are working on this. DiFerdinando mentioned that Rutgers Extension Services is a good source for free resources. Lempert also mentioned that Council passed a resolution to hire a planning consultant to look at residential zoning – Neighborhood Character Study. She said they will be looking at environmental impacts, flooding, storm water and construction waste. She their goal is to come up with some ordinance language for Council to review. Fichtenbaum noted that the PEC is very happy about this and it looks forward to working with them. Lempert said she does not have an update on bio-gas because the budget has not yet been passed. Lempert said there is a draft Bike Master Plan that the staff is currently reviewing because it will go to the Planning Board. She also noted that there will be a public meeting about the Bike Master Plan. Fichtenbaum noted that bicycle parking is a concern of the PEC's and the PEC would like

to see that included in this. Lempert also stated that the Council is trying to encourage Governor Christie to release the open space funds to the municipalities.

- b) **80% Renewable Energy by 2050 Presentation:** Andres Reinero said he would like to make the PEC aware of the Renewable Energy Transition Act: he said this act will require NJ to have 80% renewable energy by the year 2050. He said they will also require 5 year milestone to ensure that the act keeps moving. He noted that they will be looking at a reconstruction of the solar incentives to make it easier to implement this. He said this bill has been sponsored by at least 6 legislative representatives and it has also passed in the Senate. He stated that California and New York already have aggressive standards and they would like NJ to have the same. He said with this bill they would like to see a flat growth in electrical usage however they will have to install more solar which will require them to look at Land Use to see where the solar can be installed. He said they will also look at grid stability and proper planning. He did note that solar will support critical loads during natural disasters where the electric grid cannot. He said renewable energy supports local employment with good, high paying jobs – it's a driver for economic growth. He said there are benefits across the board that far outweigh any detriments. Lyle Rawlings noted that this bill passed the Senate twice, one at the end of the session and then it was brought forth right away in the new session and passed. He said the Assembly will be a different story – this will be an uphill battle because it does not have the support it had in the Senate. A draft resolution was sent out to the Commission late this afternoon and Fichtenbaum noted that this is an opportunity to provide some municipal support for this important bill. After a brief discussion it was decided that the PEC would like to have some time to do some research on this and bring it back for a decision next month.
- c) **Carnegie Lake Update:** Glovier noted that she has not met with Princeton University yet and will report back next month about it. There was a brief discussion about septic systems and the need to check and clean them.
- d) **State Water Plan Resolution:** Fichtenbaum said she received this resolution last month and there was not enough time to put it on the agenda so it was added to the agenda this month. She said this resolution supports the state clean water supply plan. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the resolution. It was also noted that a draft resolution would be sent to Council as well.
- e) **Open Space:** Fichtenbaum said she would like to have a vote to support Council in its endeavor to get encourage Governor Christie to release the Open Space funds to municipalities. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to support Council to get the state open space funds allocated to municipalities.
- f) **Green Development Checklist Update:** Fichtenbaum stated that Deb has collected 9 out of the 18 applications and will put together a report and forward it to the PEC to see if that the report is acceptable. Once accepted she will continue with the other applications.

- g) **EV Ordinance:** Glovier stated that a Princeton University intern will be working on this and will present something by May when she leaves.
- h) **ANJEC Grant:** Glovier stated that this application was turned around very quickly. She reiterated that this is a stewardship grant for the Woodfield Reservation Trails. The grant is for \$1500.00, the PEC voted to donate \$500.00, FOPOS will donate \$500.00 and when she spoke with Hamilton Supply about materials, and they offered a discounted price on the lumber and will also donate \$200.00 towards the project. She said there has not been a decision on the grant yet, but ANJEC did call with a couple questions so that is a good sign. Fichtenbaum noted that this has been a huge effort of Glovier and Friends of Princeton Open Space.
- i) **Solar Panels on Fences:** Fichtenbaum said some approached her about this subject and she did some research and met with the towns Zoning Officer to discuss this. She noted that fences are one of the few things that you can have on the property line (up to a certain height) – and solar panels are considered to be structures so they would have to adhere to all of the zoning regulations. She said it would be difficult with the placement of the panels and she thinks this would be a really bad idea. She said it is her recommendation not to pursue this. She did say however that it may be good to have a “solar ready” ordinance in place. This would allow new homes to have to option of installing solar – the pathways would already be in place. She said this may be something that the PEC looks into in the future.
- j) **Signage/Communication:** Spindel said she is not clear about the availability of money from last year and whether or not she should continue with the development of the signs. Fichtenbaum noted that there is still an encumbrance in place from last year with Fast Signs. She said she has met with Recreation and they are in agreement about the what the sign should say – what Princeton is doing to be “green” and also about the “leave the leaves” campaign. Lempert expressed some concern about signs in the Municipal office or on bulletin boards. She said if it decided to development a sign it should be very simple. She also noted that it is not up to the Recreation Dept to decide what can be displayed in the municipal building and she suggested that the PEC look at placing the signs in the Library, Small World Coffee or the kiosk. She noted that many people gather information from the Kiosks. Spindel said she is relieved that the signs are not something they should pursue at this time and it gives her more velocity to work on the website. Fichtenbaum noted that she does not think that the public knows what the PEC works on and she suggested writing a letter to the Editor perhaps every quarter to describe the actions of the PEC. Lempert suggested sending the top issues of each meeting to the media outlets – Patch, Topics, Packet, Sun and Planet Princeton. Spindel said she will reach out to the media outlets.

**VI. Focus Areas:**

- a) **Chairs Report:** Fichtenbaum asked if anyone was able to attend the Stream Clean-up. Glovier noted that she was there and there was a lot of stuff pulled out in and around the stream.
- b) **SPRAB/Development Applications:**

- i. Lanwin Development Zoning Change Request:** Fichtenbaum said this request is for a piece of property at the intersection of Bunn Drive and Herrontown Road. She said the property is approximately 80-90 acres of land. She said the property is zoned for 4 acre lots – the applicant can build 20 4 acre lots on this property, the cluster ordinance would allow them to build 27 1 acre lots. But they are asking the town for 30 lots and not 27, in exchange for a public open space area and 3 acres to develop affordable housing. She said she is very concerned about the wetlands (she doesn't know if there has been an LOI done on the property). Lempert noted that the 30<sup>th</sup> property already exists. Fichtenbaum stated that she wanted the PEC to see this before the applicant comes to the Planning Board and to show how the clustering is a much better plan for the property. She said she would like to see green infrastructure incorporated into the plan. There was a brief discussion about the need of an LOI and possibly an environmental assessment. Some of the main concerns that were mentioned were: vernal pools, wetlands and wetland buffers, steep slopes, boulder fields, the site is heavily forested and the fact that this is an environmentally sensitive area. It was noted that the PEC may not have enough environmental information to comment on the re-zoning effort. Lempert suggested that Fichtenbaum put the PEC concerns in writing and send it to Tim Quinn (ZARC), Wanda Gunning (Planning Board), Cecilia Birge (PEC rep for Planning Board), herself and Lee Solow (Planning Director). Fichtenbaum said she will send the letter and have Walker send the overlay they created to Deb for distribution.
- ii. Board of Health:** DiFerdinando stated that he would like someone from the PEC to attend the BOH meetings to see if there is a way to work together on some issues. Fichtenbaum stated that she would attend the next meeting. He said the BOH is working on the following issues: opiate use and deaths, lead poisoning, killing of non-invasive plants, Zika virus education.
- iii. Sustainable Princeton:** Symington noted that they made a presentation to Council at the last meeting about the BYOB Campaign with the PMA and MCCaffrey's. She noted that over 94,000 bags have been sent to Trex and as a result the town will be getting a bench that will be placed inside of CP Pool. She said she is still looking for funding to place EV Chargers in the Spring Street garage. She noted that they were not selected for the Sustainable Jersey grant that they applied for. She also noted that SG Heating & AC will be bringing a "home on wheels" to Princeton in June that will demonstrate

home energy efficiencies and improvements and they are looking for a place to locate the “little home”. She said SG is looking for a Princeton resident that would like to have a home energy audit that will be televised. She said if anyone knows of anyone to please let her know.

**VII. Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Debra L. Mercantini**

Date Approved: May 2016