

**PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 25, 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 Simon

Absent were: Marcus-Levine and Spindel

III. Approval of Agenda:

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

IV. Minutes:

- a) **April 27, 2019:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

V. Public Comment: No public comment at this time

VI. Discussion/Decisions:

- a) **Council Update:** Simon noted that most of his items will be covered in the agenda.
- b) **Renewable Energy Resolution:** Zemble discussed this law and time-line with the PEC. She noted that there is nothing controversial in the law and stated that she felt it was something that the PEC could support. Fichtenbaum noted that a significant amount of NJ's energy comes from Nuclear and the state needs to think about where it would like to move with energy once nuclear is phased out. There was a brief discussion about the resolution and proposed changes that needed to be made to the wording. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted to approve the resolution. Fichtenbaum abstained from the vote.
- c) **Leaf-blowers:** Anthony Lunn stated that he is here to talk to the PEC about a newly formed group called "Quiet Princeton". He said the group's primary focus is noise pollution. He said they have targeted leaf-blowers first because they make a lot of noise and give off pollution. He said in 1997 Princeton revised its leaf-blower ordinance but it is practically unenforceable. He said the group has contacted some landscapers and have given them a document asking them to commit to being a "quiet landscaper". He said they have received positive feedback about this. It was suggested that the PEC "leave the leaves" initiative could partner with this program. After a lengthy discussion Fichtenbaum thanked Mr. Lunn for bringing this issue

forward and asked Mr. Simon to check and see if the landscapers are receiving leaf-blower information when they register. Mr. Lunn did note that “Quiet Princeton” has a website but in order to get to the website you have to google it.

- d) **Green Development Checklist:** Fichtenbaum noted that Deb has been very busy with Access Princeton and she will meet with her in the beginning of June for an update.
- e) **EV Ordinance:** Glovier said that she and Symington will be meeting with Ilene in Planning Board office to discuss what other towns are doing in reference to this type of ordinance.
- f) **Construction Waste Recycling:** Simon stated that this ordinance is in the process and its being worked on. He said he doesn’t have a time-line yet but it will come to the PEC for review in the next 6 months. Fichtenbaum stated she is worried that this will fall through the cracks. Symington said that this is something Sustainable Princeton can get re-certification points from and it will be watched and tracked very carefully through the Green Team.
- g) **Zoning Study:** Fichtenbaum stated that the town has hired planners to do some studies on zoning development. This is a tremendous opportunity for the PEC to provide input on the environmental issues. She discussed the overlay zones in Portland, Oregon and stated this could be something that Princeton considers. She said she will look into this study further and report back to the PEC so that they can put together some suggestions to forward to Council and the Planning Board.
- h) **Carnegie Lake Update:** Glovier stated that the Commission letter about the Water Supply Act has appeared in various new outlets. It was decided that Glovier and TechCzarny would reach out to Princeton University. TechCzarny also asked how he could start a campaign to “Clean Carnegie Lake”. Fichtenbaum stated that he would need to develop an idea and present it to the PEC with goals and objectives and that it should be presented to Council.
- i) **ANJEC Grant:** Glovier stated that Princeton was awarded the \$1,500.00 grant and that a press release is in the process of being created. She said FOPOS is organizing some “work days” in June for this project at the Woodfield Reservation.
- j) **Communication:** Fichtenbaum stated that Spindel will be resigning from PEC. She said she met with Jenny and spoke to her about the website. She said it was very helpful and Jenny provided a lot of information. She said she will try to find the time to do this, but if anyone would like to volunteer she would welcome it. Birge said she will be traveling for a few months but would be willing to help out. Birge stated everything could be emailed back and forth. She suggested placing images on the website as well (leaves, compost, etc.).
- k) **SPRAB/Development Application:** Fichtenbaum stated there are no applications to discuss but asked where the Lanwin application was in the pipeline. Simon said it went to the subcommittee of the Planning Board. Fichtenbaum stated that she wanted to make sure that all of the right people have the PEC memo concerning this

application. Simon suggested that Deb send the memo to all of the Council members.

- l) Board of Health:** DiFerdinando stated that a PEC member attended the last BOH meeting and it was good to have the interaction. He said the BBOH will be sending a letter of support on the Bike Master Plan. He said with respect to leaf-blowers, the inspectors are very busy with the restaurant inspections. He said if they were called out on a leaf-blower concern they would go out as time permits, they would not be able to drop everything and go right out. Zemble asked about “black poison ivy”. He said he has never heard of it, to please send him a picture. DiFerdinando also noted that the new circulation at the Shopping Center is NOT bike friendly. Fichtenbaum stated that the PEC reviewed that application and recommended a dedicated bike lane but the applicant chose not to do it and it was not mandated at the Planning Board level.
- m) Planning Board:** Birge said the board has been hearing smaller application and one big application for the Thompson Land off Mt. Lucas Road but it was sent back to staff and the developer to look at all of the impacts. Fichtenbaum stated that the Planning Board should have some basis for granting the zoning change. She suggested that the applicant submit an LOI and they should limit the size of the lots because there may be a substantial amount of lots that are undevelopable. Walker said that the information that was provided by the applicant did not show a lot of the much needed information. Simon suggested revising the memo to include a statement that says “absent the right information as-of-right zoning is preferred”. Birge said she would be happy to contact Solow and convey the information that was discussed here.
- n) Sustainable Princeton:** Symington stated that she has been working with the municipality to develop a work-plan to help with the Sustainable Princeton re-certification next year. At this time the town has 70 of the more than 300 points that are needed. She said right now she is working on the following items; Green Driver Training, Green the Fleet, Making municipal events zero waste, energy tracking and management; Health Dept. Animal Management Plan, Making Princeton EV friendly and a Climate Action Plan and recommendations for that plan. She also noted that the “tiny house on wheels” will be in Princeton next month and will be parked at the Unitarian Church. She said Sustainable Princeton will be raffling off 10 energy audits.
- o) Bike Master Plan:** Sacks said that the bike parking ordinance will be included in Chapter 7 and hasn’t been released yet. She said each committee will weigh in on the plan and the PEC should be included. Simon noted that the plan has been distributed to the Planning Board subcommittee but he doesn’t think it has been available to the public yet. Fichtenbaum suggested sending it to Deb and having her distribute to everyone on the Commission. Sacks noted that the plan is massive and perhaps the PEC should focus on the more substantial issues and overall benefits to the bike infrastructure. Simon noted that he went to the subcommittee meeting and he is not sure what the bottom line cost to the town will be. He said there are some areas that need attention such as the removal of on-street parking and brush and leaf pick-ups.

- VII.** Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Mercantini. Secretary

Date Approved: July 27, 2016