

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 13, 2013– 7:30 pm
Meeting Room A, Municipal Building
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 7:39 p.m.

Present were: Kaczerski, Fichtenbaum, Ullman, Molina, Chorney, Rojer, Wasserman, Welles and Crumiller

Absent was: Zemble, Spindel and Herlihy

III. Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the change to add a discussion regarding the PEC ordinance.

IV. Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the October, 2013 minutes as written and amended.

V. Public Comment: There was no public present

VI. Discussion/Decisions:

- a) **Council Updates:** Crumiller noted that the motion for intervener status was filed regarding the Transco Pipeline project. She said she will forward a copy of the motion to the PEC. She said she attending a meeting regarding the draft PEC ordinance and she will email out the draft once she receives it. She also noted that staff is working on purchasing the recycling cans for the downtown area. She said she spoke with Robert Hough and he said this is on Wayne Carr's list of things to do. Kaczerski inquired as to whether or not anyone was addressing the impacts of traffic. Crumiller said not right now, but there is a subcommittee working on this. Kaczerski said she believes that there are e3 different subcommittees working on this. Ullman noted that the subcommittee that Crumiller is referring to is specifically looking at Alexander Street and the impacts of the Arts & Transit project. Wasserman suggested that Crumiller bring to the attention of the subcommittee that the PEC is concerned about and the impacts of the traffic and would like to be involved.

- b) Operating Budget:** Wasserman said that the PEC has money it's the budget that needs to be accounted for. He said last year the PEC gave \$1200.00 to Sustainable Princeton for its Leadership Awards and that may be a possibility for this year as well. He also noted that Fichtenbaum will be attending a conference that will be beneficial to the PEC as well and suggested that perhaps the PEC would fund a portion of it - \$300.00. There was a motion made and seconded to fund \$300.00 of the cost for Fichtenbaum to attend the Green Build conference. Wasserman noted that if the PEC votes to approve the \$1200.00 for Sustainable Princeton, it will still have \$900.00 left. After a brief discussion it was decided that the members would send their ideas to Wasserman and said it would be discussed via email and someone would get back to Deb Rogers in time to have the purchase orders completed by December 8, 2013.
- c) Molina** inquired about the jurisdiction of the PEC when it comes to the types of containers that are used in the schools and would it be possible to pass an ordinance requiring them to use certain sustainable containers. Crumiller said that it would be her guess that an ordinance could not be developed for this. Molina then suggested a checklist perhaps such as the one that was developed for the developers when it comes to green building. Wasserman said that perhaps it should start with the Master Plan. Ullman said that a sustainability element would need to be developed.
- d) NJ Free – 80% Renewable Energy – Lyle Rawlings:** He presented a PowerPoint presentation to the PEC. He said the coalition is one of the largest and broadest in New Jersey. He said he would like Princeton to be one of the first towns in New Jersey to support this coalition. He said it is their goal to require 80% renewable energy by the year 2050. He said he would like the PEC to ask Princeton Council to join Free NJ. He said there is no cost and by joining the coalition it will show that the town is supporting Free NJ's goal. After the presentation, Wasserman noted that it is Free NJ's goal to have the town of Princeton on its support list. Mr. Rawlings said yes that was correct and he thanked the PEC for listening.
- e) Veblen House – Herrontown Woods:** Wasserman stated that Hiltner is asking the PEC for a letter of support and sending it to Brian Hughes, Mercer County Executive. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to send Brian Hughes a letter of support.
- f) PEC Ordinance:** Wasserman handed out information from ANJEC and ANJEC's comment regarding the drafting of an ordinance giving the PEC certain powers. He said that while the NJ statute centers on environmental issues, the most important factor is being consistent with the Master Plan. Ullman noted that she has searched other town ordinances and most just reiterate the state statute. The Commission discussed the legality of PEC review when it comes to site plans. Crumiller said this ordinance will be discussed at the next meeting and she will convey that the PEC wants to make its site plan review role is reflected in the ordinance. Wasserman asked the PEC to send its suggestions regarding the ordinance to him and it can be discussed through email and it will also be discussed further at next month's meeting. Ullman said she is more concerned with being overly specific rather than just broadening the ordinance.

- VII.** Updates: Wasserman stated that in the essence of time, he would go around the room and if anyone had any updates they could voice them.
- a) Ullman noted that the Planning Board approved the revised circulation element of the Master Plan. She one of the more notable revisions is that the element is recommending that municipal trucks use alternative energy. She said they approved the initiative of the Sustainable Princeton Green Team to further its efforts for Silver Certification by endorsing a land use pledge; it also recommends a number of sustainable practices. She noted that the element has been revised from focusing on vehicular transportation to pedestrian and bicycles.
 - b) Chorney noted that the food waste composting is up and running in all of the schools. She did note however that there is still a lot of coded paper that is being thrown in the trash. She said with regards to recycling in downtown, it was her understanding that there was a borough ordinance that requires the businesses to submit a recycling plan – but unfortunately it is not enforced. Wasserman stated that it was his understanding that when the Fire Marshall did his inspections that the recycling plan would be checked at that point. Crumiller said that it is not currently being done. She said that she was told that staff could not do it at this point. She said she will be attending a meeting on Friday and she will inquire as to why this is not being done by staff. Welles noted that Princeton University is doing a lot of work on recycling signage.
 - c) Fichtenbaum said she would like everyone to think about future ordinances that the PEC may want to work on for discussion possibly at the next meeting.
 - d) Rojer said the Board of Health is very active right now with the meningitis cases at Princeton University. He said they are trying to track similarities within the cases.
- VIII.** Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Rogers, Secretary

Date Approved: December 11, 2013