

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 11, 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, Spindel, Welles, Herlihy and Crumiller

Absent was: Zemble

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 Sustainable Princeton.

IV. Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the November 13, 2013 minutes as written and amended.

V. Public Comment: There was no public present

VI. Discussion/Decisions:

- a) Wasserman stated that he would like the PEC to focus on specific areas at this meeting; those areas included but were not limited to LEEDs, Ordinances, Trees, P/R Education and the silver certification of Princeton.
- b) Wasserman presented Ullman and Kaczerski with Resolutions thanking them for their invaluable service to the PEC and the Princeton Community.
- c) Tree Inventory: Hiltner was in attendance to discuss the Shade Tree Commission tree inventory that was completed by Robert Wells. He noted that the inventory includes trees that are planted along the town right-of-way; it does not include trees that are located in parks, nature preserves and along a state road. He noted that there are 19,000 trees in total, 15,000 in the former Township and 4,000 in the former Borough. He said the trees is most danger at this point are the white & green ash trees. He said the STC will have other experts coming in to discuss the threat to these trees. He noted that some trees have been treated. He said the canopy is the forests will be changing which adds urgency to dealing with the invasive plants in the woods. He said these are

things that need to be thought about. Wasserman stated that if the STC finds that the PEC can help, he asked that they reach out to Crumiller or Fichtenbaum.

- d) Hiltner discussed the Veblen House stating that there was a meeting with the Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes and he suggested that the group put together a non-profit organization and he thought the County may turn over the buildings to the group along with some of the land. He said he was very pleased with the meeting.
- e) Council Update: Crumiller announced that Council passed the Land Use Pledge and it will count toward the towns Silver Certification. She also noted that the sidewalk ordinance passed which means that any sidewalk damage that is caused by trees in the right-of-way will be paid for by the municipality. She also said the Organic Program has been extended for another year. She said the tonnage numbers were way under what the town had anticipated. Fichtenbaum said she thinks the composting program should be a standard program offered by the town. Welles stated that the University is seriously looking at single stream and she suggested that the town partner with the University. Wasserman noted that the town already wants to strengthen its relationship with the Princeton University and he thinks it's a great opportunity for partner with them on a number of projects. Crumiller said that Council will be discussing the Organic Program in January 2014. It was suggested that perhaps a memo is sent to the Council asking them to use the surplus from the refuse contract to promote the curbside composting program. Molina noted that anyone who participates in the program currently has to re-sign up in January for next year. Chorney said she will follow-up with Janet Pellichero to see if she can email the registrations to the current participants to make it easier and to ensure everyone knows they must re-sign up for the following year. Crumiller suggested that a member of the PEC attend the Council meeting in January. It was also suggested that someone draft a memo and send to Council prior to the meeting requested that the surplus funds are used for the organic program. Fichtenbaum suggested that the memo state that the PEC recommends that the waste surplus be used to promote greater participation in the curbside composting program. Wasserman asked Rogers to draft a memo and send it to himself and Fichtenbaum. Crumiller also noted that 2 recycling cans have been ordered for the Downtown.
- f) Open Public Meeting Act Resolutions for 2014: A motion was made and seconded to adopt the 2014 Meeting Schedule and accompanying resolutions fixing charges for subscribers and format of the meeting and special meeting notices.
- g) Reorganization: Wasserman noted that in January the Commission will need to appoint a Vice Chair. He said Fichtenbaum has been the VC for a few years and asked if she would like to continue. Fichtenbaum said she will continue however if there is anyone else interested she would be happy to give someone else a turn. Wasserman said that former member Birge would be returning to the PEC as the Planning Board liaison, and he said that Rogers has expressed an interest in continuing as the Secretary. A question came up about the number of "regular" members versus "alternate" members. Wasserman asked Rogers to check with the Clerk to see how the last few appointments have been made and to remind

the Clerk's Office that another members needs to be appointed. It was noted that the PEC would like to new member to be appointed in the "alternate" member position and that Chorney be moved up to a "regular" members.

- h) PEC Ordinance:** Wasserman discussed items that could possibly be included in the ordinance such as fund raising, working with profits and non-profits, the PEC being able to achieve its goals and lastly, being able to spend its budgeted funds as it sees fit. Kaczerski inquired about PEC monies that were not in the normal budget; one account was given to the PEC years ago for trees that were illegally removed and one was an account that was being held in the Recreation budget. Wasserman asked Rogers to check on those monies; Crumiller and Herlihy also said they would look into the finds. Chorney suggested that the PEC decide at the beginning of each year how it intends to allocate the money in the budget rather than waiting until the end of the year. Wasserman noted that he would like to see the PEC spend the money achieving its goals. Getting back to the ordinance discussion, Crumiller noted that some items the PEC is suggesting would belong in the PEC ordinance and other things may best fit in another ordinance such as the Land Use Ordinance. Wasserman said he would like to look at the wording at a later point. He said he would like to use ANJEC's wording for now and then fine tune it when it comes back. Ullman stated that ZARC will be reviewing the Land Use Ordinance – if the PEC would like to have it amended, it should be done at the ZARC level. She noted that all of the other ordinances (other than Land Use) will go to the Council for review. She said they have 4 more years to work on the Land Use ordinance but suggested the PEC present its changes to ZARC in the early to mid-part of 2014. Kaczerski noted that ANJEC awards grants in the spring, and perhaps the PEC could apply for the grant to "green" the ordinances. She suggested hiring someone with the grant money to go through the Land Use ordinance and make some recommendations. Wasserman said he would like to know the timing in order to see how much time there was to do this. Ullman said she would look into the timing. Welles said she would follow-up with ANJEC concerning the grant. There was questions about the Green Building Checklist and how that was ordinance and why that could not be made longer/stronger. Fichtenbaum explained that NJ has building codes and the PEC was told that they cannot mandate anything that is more stringent than what the state requires. She said the PEC developed the green building checklist so at least it would give the Planning Board more information on what applicants were doing when it came to environmental issues.
- i) Ordinance Survey:** Fichtenbaum explained that she tried to come up with a list of items that pertained more to Land Use issues. She said she would love to start this process and information to ZARC as soon as possible. She said she added one item to the list and she marked it as #15 – Solar Infrastructure and Car Charging Stations. She said on the responses (although her number were different than Rogers numbers) the top items that the PEC members would like to work on were; waste, organic lawn care, environmental testing when a site changes use, bicycle storage and energy use intensity. The Commission then went on to discuss each item and whether or not they felt it was enforceable.

Waste- pieces may be enforceable, other pieces may not. Organic Lawn Care – this may be very difficult to enforce. Environmental Testing – want this to be specifically for hazardous uses that change to less hazardous uses – again may be hard to enforce – but the town could mimic the state regulations so they are not more stringent. Bicycle Storage – could be easily enforced. There was also some discussion on hiring a consultant to develop a waste plan for the town; have the town form a commission specifically to address waste and/or investigate a waste audit.

- j) Board of Health: Rojer reported that Princeton University swiftly sprung in to action to control the meningitis outbreak.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Rogers, Secretary

Date Approved: January 22, 2014