

**PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 23, 2014– 7:30pm**  
**Community Room, 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 7:40 p.m.**

Present were: Wasserman, Fichtenbaum, Molina, Chorney, Welles, Spindel, Welles, Marcus-Levine, Landis, Miller and Crumiller

Absent were: Birge and Zemble

There were 2 members of the public present.

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

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

**IV. Minutes:**

- a) June 18, 2014: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

**V. Decisions and Discussions:**

- a) **Landscaper Focus Group Discussion:** Wasserman welcomed everyone and said the focus will be to brainstorm. He thanked Sustainable Princeton and Crumiller for helping to bring forth this discussion group. He explained the role of the Environmental Commission and Sustainable Princeton's role in the community. He said one of the main goals is to reduce waste by 50% in the coming years; waste including plastics, leaves, and food waste. He noted that the purpose of this discussion is to engage people and discuss some options that may be available. He introduced John Heilner from the Human Services Commission.

Mr. Heilner said that he would like to briefly discuss the ordinances from a Human Services perspective. He said there are two new ordinances; the landscaper ordinance and the Leaf, Branch and Brush ordinance. He said the Human Services Commission wanted to see the wage theft and lack of workers compensation issues addressed in the ordinances. He said the Landscaper ordinance which was passed requires registration by the landscapers once a year

and by with that registration they will have to acknowledge that they received a copy of the leaf and brush schedule as well as the Federal and NJ State laws concerning wage theft and providing workers compensation. He said the town will have the ability to revoke the landscapers ability to do work in the town if there is a violation of the wage and theft law. It was suggested that the landscapers be required to show their certificate of insurance. Mr. Heilner said he will suggest that to Mr. Hough the Director of Infrastructure and Operations for Princeton as this will be handled through the Department of Public Works.

Wasserman said that the goal was to enable the residents to undertake environmental solutions that would not be overly-burdensome to either themselves or their landscapers. That this meeting was the first step in giving those stakeholders an opportunity to talk about better ways to manage our yard 'waste', discuss potential hurdles, and develop solutions. He said the PEC developed a program called "leave the leaves". Which means not to take the leaves off of the lawn; they can be mulched, composted or used for weed control. He said tonight he wants to get the landscaper's perspective on such a program.

Landis asked how to reach the landscapers. She said her office reached out to over 145 landscaping companies and only 2 showed up for this event; Robert Wells and Susan Cohen. After some discussion it was concluded that timing (summer) was bad despite the time of the event (late evening). It was agreed that the PEC and SP would redo the event in the late fall / early winter.

A discussion ensued for about 90 minutes and Wasserman noted that despite the low turnout, significant insight was gained. Wasserman also noted that this insight would be used as part of the follow-up meetings with the residents and landscapers and that the details of the meetings would be summarized together once completed.

- VI.** Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Rogers, Secretary

Date Approved:

