

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 25, 2015– 7:30pm
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. Wasserman opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Present were: Wasserman, Fichtenbaum, Chorney, Marcus-Levine, Walker, Miller and Simon ****Please note Mr. Simon was present via telephone****

Absent were: Birge, Zemble, Molina, Spindel and Landis

There were some members of the public present for the discussions

III. Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the amendment that the 2015 ANJEC grant is added to the discussion section of the agenda.

IV. Minutes:

- a) February 25, 2015: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes with an amendment stipulating that the bike plan will take 3 years to complete.

V. Public Comment: There was no public comment at this time during the meeting.

VI. Decisions/Discussions:

- a) **ANJEC Grant:** Wasserman stated that FOPOS (Friends of Princeton Open Space) would like to partner with the PEC in applying for a \$1,500.00 stewardship grant. He explained the particulars of the grant and asked for a motion from the PEC. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the submission of the ANJEC grant.
- b) **Princeton Shopping Center Development Application:** Wasserman thanked the Development Review Subcommittee for working so diligently on this review. Fichtenbaum discussed the PEC recommendations which included discussions on a vegetative swale, number of parking spaces, landscape strips, waste removal, lighting, signs, pedestrian walkways, bicycle circulation and bike lanes, availability of showers for those that want to bike to work, de-compaction of the soil, adequate noise pollution control for rooftop units at Nomad Pizza, native

plantings, charging stations and preferred parking for fuel efficient vehicles. She noted that the PEC would like to see all energy star appliances, LED fixtures and noted that the applicant should utilize the NJ Energy Rebate Program.

After Fichtenbaum completed her presentation, there was a Q&A session and then the discussion was opened to the public. Public Attendees for the Shopping center discussion were Mark Sullivan (JZA+D), David Germakian (Edens Development Manager), and Tom Latizia (Pepper Hamilton attorney). The public comment section for this discussion item lasted for about 45 minutes. A Q&A session occurred for about 45 minutes. Beyond what was in the PEC memo, the following points were made; Community Solar was brought up as a possible solution to the solar panel recommendation; much emphasis by the PEC was put on creating safe pathways for pedestrian and cyclists in the new parking lot; significant discussion was had on the benefits of bio-swales. The discussion ended with minor recommended changes to the application subcommittee's memo. A motion was and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to submit the PEC memo to the Planning Board.

- c. **Discussion about 33 Lytle Street:** Simon provided background on the state of the property, the recent council vote, and the restrictions on the funds currently being considered to turn the lot into open space. A draft resolution was discussed by the PEC. A motion was made and seconded and the PEC voted to approve the following memo to Council regarding the 33 Lytle Street property. (Simon voted against).

Memo regarding 31-33 Lytle Street: The PEC unanimously supports community and Princeton government efforts to preserve the above referenced house. It is the PEC's point of view that it is always more desirable to preserve a viable building than to knock it down. The PEC encourages all parties in their efforts to arrive at partnerships and financial arrangements that will make proper use of the property.

- d. **Council Update:**

- a) **Chairs Report:** Wasserman discussed the following items; Success with the Williams Pipeline – they will be required to dig under the environmentally sensitive areas; a speaker from Ultimate Peace is in town this spring and is available for speaking engagements, Wasserman asked that anyone interested should let him know; The 9th annual stream clean-up is April 18th from 9-11 at Turning Basin on Alexander Rd; Wasserman met with Marc Dashield and Simon to discuss how best to present the waste memo / recommendations to Council. Mr. Dashield recommended that a PEC liaison be invited to an upcoming DPW Waste subcommittee meeting to discuss the recommendations and align on priorities prior to presenting to Council. Mr. Dashield will send Wasserman an invitation to an upcoming meeting; Wasserman shared some interesting facts about NJ's energy usage from 2011 to 2014.

- VII. Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Mercantini, Secretary

Date Approved: April 22, 2015