

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 22, 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 7:43 p.m.

Present were: Wasserman, Fichtenbaum, Chorney, Molina, Walker, Miller and Simon

Absent were: Birge, Zemble, Spindel, Marcus-Levine and Landis

III. Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the addition of the Adopt-A-Park discussion.

IV. Minutes:

- a) May 27, 2015: The minutes were not distributed and there for will be placed on next month's agenda.

V. Public Comment: There were no members of the public present.

VI. Discussions & Decisions:

- a) **Council Update:** Simon discussed where Council was in terms of the bag ordinance. He asked if the PEC had any documentation on the plastic bag issue with regards to pollution water and or parks. He said the Hough has no collective data on it. He recommended that the PEC back the voluntary effort and propose a resolution to Council in support of the State Bills on plastic bags. He said Council would need more evidence that there is a plastic bag problem before they could take any action on it. He said Council needs to look at the best use of its resources given the budget restraints they are facing. Wasserman stated that he will reach out to the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed to see if they have any available data from the stream clean-up. The PEC held a brief discussion on this issue; they also questioned why Princeton would not accept evidence from other states about this issue; it is more than a Princeton issue, it is an issue all around the country. Simon noted the policing power is not enough; Princeton has to prove that its solution will actually help the problem. It was decided that Chorney would reach out to Sustainable Princeton and the Watershed to see if there is any available data that the town may already have.

Wasserman noted that after Chorney investigates the numbers, the PEC could then decide on how to proceed.

Simon also noted that he is still waiting on the cost analysis for the leaf & brush pick-ups. He will report back on that at the next meeting. Chorney noted that she attended a meeting with the DPW to see how money could be saved on the leaf & brush pick-ups and how they felt about the “leave the leaves” on municipal and open space properties. She said the DPW seemed to think that how they do the pick-ups now is fine and there doesn’t need to be any changes to it. Simon also noted that there are some land restraints with the “leave the leaves” initiatives on some properties. Chorney noted that this initiative should start with the municipal owed properties and open space properties so they town can go back and say “look we did it, now we are asking the residents to do the same”.

- b) **Princeton Land Use Ordinance:** Fichtenbaum said that the Bicycle Parking Ordinance has been developed and she is very excited about this because it is something that the PEC working jointly with the Bike/Ped Committee on. She said the PEC should now move on to try and develop a Demolition/Construction Waste Recycling ordinance. She noted that this ordinance should be easy to implement because the developer would save money by doing this. She suggested they would have to present a “ticket” from the company that took their construction waste saying that a portion of it would be recycled. She also suggested that without this ticket, the developer would not be able to receive a Certificate of Occupancy.
- c) **Board of Health:** Miller reported that the Board of Health is working on a paid sick leave ordinance for food handlers and they are also working on an ordinance regulating chemical use in Nail and Hair Salons.
- d) **Parks:** Molina said she attending a meeting with various people from the DPW, D&R Canal Commission, Friends of Princeton Open Space, Friends of Herrontown Woods, Recreation and Council representative Butler to discuss open spaces and whether or not they were adopted by anyone. She said the group is looking at the costs and they serrated out the parks that were already adopted but decided to leave them in the cost analysis so the costs for all parks could be shown. She said there will be another meeting in August with the intent of a September deadline to present the budget. She noted that she will bring up the “leave the leaves” initiative at the August meeting to see if that will reduce costs. Chorney also noted that they should look at the costs of bagging the leaves and taking them somewhere else to show that the “leave the leaves” initiative would save money.
- e) **Application Review Subcommittee:** Fichtenbaum reviewed the application with the PEC stating that this facility is approximately 17,500 sf, 1 story building with a playground and gardens. She said the will re-use the existing parking lot and they are anticipating LEED Silver status on the project. She noted that the recommendations being presented in the memo are as follows:
 - Recommending they reach for a higher status than Silver
 - Tree protection and preservation w/site utilities

- Consider soil remediation actions
- Vegetative swales around the parking areas
- Permeable pavers
- Landfill recycling and adequate space outside along with containers inside
- Single flush toilets that are high efficiency and use less water than dual flush
- All LED lighting including exterior fixtures
- Energy Star uses
- EUI to benchmark the energy use
- Energy Star target finder
- Careful detail of exterior and mechanicals for the building
- Shower for bikers
- Covered parking for bikers and people with buggies
- Perhaps reserve additional land should they decide to expand in the future
- Adequate air quality for day care centers
- Recycling Materials
- Provide them with a “red List”
- Green cleaning

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

VII. Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Mercantini, Secretary

DATE APPROVED: September 30, 2015