

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 9, 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 7:37 p.m.

Present were: Wasserman, Fichtenbaum, Chorney, Molina, Walker, Marcus-Levine and Simon

Absent were: Zemble, Birge, Landis and Miller

III. Approval of Agenda:

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

IV. Minutes:

- a) October 28, 2015: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

V. Presentation to Wasserman: Fichtenbaum read a resolution thanking Wasserman for all of his years of service to the Commission and also presented him with a gift from the PEC.

VI. Presentation to Chorney: Wasserman read a resolution thanking Chorney for all of her service to the PEC and to the Princeton Community.

VII. Public Comment: There were 2 members of the public present however each held back comment until the discussion for the topic in which they were interested in.

VIII. Discussions & Decisions:

- a) **Council Updates:** Simon noted that Council will soon be establishing a date for its goal setting meeting. He also noted that the new template for the website is in the works and if anyone had questions to contact the Deputy Municipal Clerk.
- b) **OPMA Resolutions and Meeting Schedule for 2016:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adopt both the resolutions and the meeting schedule.
- c) **PEC 2016 Goals:** The PEC held a lengthy discussion on its 2016 goals and what everyone wanted to work on. There were many suggestions made, which included, but not limited to; Green Buildings, Waste reduction, Bikes,

single use bags, leaves organic waste, encouraging restaurants to compost, creation of a 3 year vision plan, sustainable action plan, ordinance concerning demolition waste, requiring construction companies to register for state incentives for sustainable building, environmental health and partnering with the BOH. Hiltner was also present and stated that the town needs to develop something more efficient than the current leaf and brush pick-up; he suggested that this be added to the PEC goals for 2016. After much discussion, it was decided that the PEC would work towards developing 4 ordinances for Council to consider, they would write 4 white papers and then add action items as well. Wasserman said that as one of his last functions for the PEC, he would compile a list with a summary and then send it out to everyone for consideration. The members also discussed having environmental issues on a non-binding referendum.

- d) **Resolution in support of clean water:** A representative from the Stony Brook Millstone Water Shed was present and he discussed the new water quality management rules and well as the sewer service areas that were designated back in 2008. Fichtenbaum noted that at the last meeting, the PEC had decided that it needed more information on the subject before it was willing to make a stand on the issue. He said he will present comment from the Stony Brook Millstone Water Shed when they become available and then the Environmental Commission can endorse them if they so choose to.
- e) **2015 Budget Allocation:** The PEC had a brain storming discussion at the last meeting about how to allocate the 2015 budget funds. After a fairly brief discussion it was determined that the PEC would allocate money for 8 signs to be placed in the parks where the recreation is composting the leaves – the signs would offer information to the residents on how to compost on their own properties. They also decided that they would spend money on advertising and educating the public about “leave the leaves” and composting.
- f) **SPRAB:** Molina noted that the Blue Point Grill application was not approved at the SPRAB meeting. She said the applicant will be resubmitting the application with some of the changes that were suggested at the meeting. She also stated that the senior housing project on Mt. Lucas Road was also not approved and she feels they will also come back with changes to the application. Molina also noted that she thought she had another year left on her term as a member of the PEC but it seems her term is up this year. She will check with the Mayor about reappointing her even if she may not be able to fulfill the whole term.
- g) **Application Review Subcommittee:** Fichtenbaum stated that she just received an application a few days ago from the Planning Board. She said the application is for a 4-story 10 unit building with 10 parking spaces. She said the applicant stated that there is not a need for more than 10 parking spaces because the project is located in a walkable community and there is no need to have more than that. She noted that this is the old “Masonic Temple” building and the new building will have a green roof and they have a whole list of other sustainable measures that they will be taking. She stated that perhaps the landlord will have the tenants participate in the compost program.

She also noted that the Planning Board left the application on December 3rd and has requested that the PEC supply a memo no later than December 28, 2015. It was noted that the Planning Board frequently does this and does not give the PEC ample time to review the application and then bring a draft memo to the full Commission for adoption. It was suggested that someone speak with the Mayor about it.

- IX. Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Mercantini

Date Approved: January 20, 2016