

**PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 20, 2016– 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. Fichtenbaum opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.**

Present were: Fichtenbaum, Walker, Marcus-Levine, Zemble, Glovier, Czarny, Saks, DiFerdinando, Symington and Simon

Absent were: Spindel

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the amendment that the Water Supply Resolution is deleted from the items to be discussed.

**IV. Minutes:**

- a) December 2015: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

**V. Decision and Discussions:**

- a) Introduction of new commission members.
  - i. Appointment of Vice Chair: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to appoint Glovier as the Vice Chair for the year 2016.
  - ii. Appointment of Secretary: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to appoint Mercantini as the Secretary for the year 2016.
  - iii. SPRAB Liaison: Lisa Marcus-Levine volunteered to be the SPRAB liaison for the year 2016.
  - iv. Development Review Subcommittee: Committee will consist of Walker, Czarny and Marcus-Levine.
- b) **Council Updates:** Simon announced that both he and Lempert would be the council liaisons for the Commission. He noted that the DPW is following up on the Trenton Bio-Gas facility and its proposed opening in September of 2016 and stated that the town is waiting to see what the County will be before any decisions are made. He stated that some of the ideas that have been tossed around concerning Councils goals for this year include, but are not limited to; Bicycle Master Plan, Open Space Taskforce recommendations, active recreation sites, leaf pick-up programs. He also stated that Council is considering a green acres purchase on the ridge and it will be discussed at the next Council meeting.
- c) **Public Comment:** Ed Difulgia from the Stonybrook Millstone Watershed stated that there will be a meeting on February 11, 2016 in Montgomery to discuss the pipeline and he invited all interested parties to attend.

- d) **2016 Goals:** Fichtenbaum stated that the PEC had discussed possible 2016 goals at its December meeting. Since then there have been changes in the PEC membership so she put something together with suggested goals and sent it to everyone. She said that the Commission worked very hard on a general Waste memo that was sent to Council and didn't see much traction; the Commission seemed to be successful with the "leave the leaves" campaign and that may be something that the Commission may want to continue to work on. She noted that the Trenton Bio-Gas issue is very important and may be something to think about; Demolition construction waste; automobile charging stations; incentivizing the Green Building Checklist; and perhaps working on a health objective like making Lake Carnegie swimmable. The PEC then held on discussion on Lake Carnegie and the pro's and cons of working on something like this because the lake is owned by Princeton University. Symington noted that the town will need to re-apply for its Silver Certification in June 2017 – Sustainable Princeton is working on installing charging stations at the Spring Street garage and suggested that the PEC may want to work on the policy aspect of charging stations. Fichtenbaum stated that the PEC has 11 meetings a year and she can follow up with everyone to hone in on the goals for 2016 but first she would like to see what everyone's thoughts are. Walker stated he would be interested in working on the Lake Carnegie issue because it would cover both short term and long term goals of the PEC; Marcus-Levine stated that this would be a good time to touch base with the University about the Lake because they are working on their goals as well; DiFerdinando mentioned pesticides and also noted the general purview of the BOH in regards to general welfare of the residents, maternal health and smoking; Miller suggested working on water quality issues, fracking and pesticides; Czarny suggested action items for short term goals and action items for long term goals; After a long discussion Fichtenbaum said after hearing all of the suggestions, she will put something together and sent it out to the Commission.
- e) **Chair's Report:** Fichtenbaum mentioned that legislation has been passed that prevents downgrading of flood hazard waste. She also noted that there will be an event at the D&R Greenway about climate at the end of the month.
- f) **Pipeline Resolution:** Zemble prepared a resolution to be sent out regarding concerns with the pipeline that is being constructed. She suggested that the Commission review the resolution and comment and then vote on the resolution with the suggested changes/additions and then she will finalize it and have it distributed to the appropriate parties. She also stated that Princeton should set a precedent for future pipelines that may be constructed. Fichtenbaum stated that the hearing on this is scheduled for February 11, 2016 and then all comments are due within 15 days of the hearing. After a brief discussion it was decided there was NOT a necessity for the additional pipeline loop as it was redundant and threatened the wetlands and also it should note the noise pollution and the specific impact it has on Princeton. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the resolution with the amendments discussed.
- g) **Development Review Subcommittee:**
- i.) Walker presented the Windy Top application on Snowden Lane. He said this application was first presented last year and was denied. The applicants have since come back with a new application whereby clustering the homes. He explained the application noting that there are wetlands located on the site and the run-off will be running right into Harry's Brook. The memo includes numerous recommendations but most importantly, the PEC is asking that the waivers for the drainage be denied. Fichtenbaum noted that there has been a reduced impact on the trees due to the clustering. A motion was made and

seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the memo for the Windy Top application.

ii.) **RB Homes application:** Fichtenbaum stated that this application is for the structure located at the corner of Charleton and Nassau Streets. She said it is currently a 2.5 story building and the applicant is proposing to demolish the building and build a 3 story building. She said they are requesting variances for almost all of the zoning regulations because the lot is so small. After a brief discussion it was noted that the applicant should consider a number of sustainable building items and also keep the stockpile of topsoil located off the site and not stockpiled on the small lot. She also noted that it is applications such as this that make it necessary to take the Green Building Checklist to the next level and try and get it ordinances. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the RB Homes memo as written.

h) **Board of Health:** DiFerdinando stated that the BOH has discussed goals and the potential for alignment with other entities. He said the BOH has a continued interest in climate and infectious disease, climate and respiratory and circulatory system, lead poisoning in older buildings, occupational health issues; and he also noted that the BOH is working with the Office of Emergency Management to reach out to the population with cognitive and special needs. He stated that the BOH provides services to international university students with children who cannot get insurance in the US.

i) **Sustainable Princeton:** Symington state that the Municipal Green Team has been working on its goals. She mentioned some of the short term goals – adding compost bins to municipal lunchrooms, leaving the leaves in smaller parks, eco driving training for municipal employees and to create a logo or icon to be placed on “green items”. She said some of the long term goals are creating a green purchasing policy for the town and to use environmentally friendly cleaning supplies. She also noted that they are looking at a Sustainable Jersey grant for a solar program where residents can log on to a web-based program and get quotes for solar installation. She said they are working on a Climate Action Plan that covers many of the Commission and BOH concerns,

**VI. 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: February 24, 2016