

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 23, 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, Glovier, Czarny, Saks, Spindel, Symington and Simon

Absent were: Zemble, DiFerdinando and Birge

III. Approval of Agenda:

Fichtenbaum noted that she received 2 agenda items late today and she would like to defer them until the next meeting; but one of them concerns Simon and she will see what he will present. The items were a state water plan resolution and ordinances to permit solar panels on fences.

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

IV. Minutes:

- a) February 24: The minutes were tabled until the April meeting.

V. Decision and Discussions:

- a) **Signage and Communication Update:** Spindel noted that the “leave the leaves” is not as easy as first anticipated. She stated that the Recreation Dept is reviewing all the signs in the Parks. It was their suggestion to signs on the bulletin boards and in the vestibules. She said once the signs are crafted the Recreation Dept will review them for approval. She said with regards to social media, Sustainable Princeton has volunteered to do some tweeting for the PEC because the PEC cannot have its own Twitter account. It was suggested that she also send the “tweets” to Access Princeton as they are the hub for the town’s social media. She was unclear as to whether or not the PEC could have its own Facebook account. Simon said he thought it would be ok, but he would look into it. He also noted that the town is almost ready to roll-out its new website and said Crumiller built the STC website and she would be more than happy to help the PEC with its page as well. Spindel noted that the PEC website is way out of date and needs to be reorganized. She made some

suggestions as to the content on the page and the placements of information that should be posted.

- b) **ANJEC Grant/FOPOS Update:** Glovier noted that she is in the process of applying for an ANJEC stewardship grant worth \$1500.00. She said if awarded this money it would be a collaborative effort with the PEC and FOPOS to enhance the trails at the Woodfield Reservation. She said FOPOS came up with an estimate of \$3500 for materials and \$500 for signs. She said the deadline for the grant application is April 1, 2016. It was suggested that the PEC donate \$500 and Simon said he would look into whether or not the PEC could do that with its budget money. Fichtenbaum noted that the PEC has done this in the past but she would have to look into it and see if there is any available money for this project. Glovier noted that there was \$2300 in this year's budget minus the money that is being allocated for the Green Building Checklist work. Simon said someone should move the approval of submitting the grant application and then the PEC can look at other avenues for the additional money that is listed. Glovier noted that because the estimate is higher than the grant allocation, she would need a letter from the Administrator that states his support of the grant and also that the town will guarantee the additional funds should the money not be raised. Simon suggested that the application for the grant is submitted as a "phase 1" so that the guarantee letter is not needed. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to submit the stewardship grant and allocate \$500.00 from its budget for this project.
- c) **EV Charging Stations:** Glovier noted that there currently are no other towns in NJ that have ordinances requiring these charging stations. Fichtenbaum noted that this is a work in progress. Simon suggested talking to Crumiller or Lempert about incorporating this into the Master Plan as they are both members of the Planning Board.
- d) **Carnegie Lake Presentation:** Mike Pisauro of the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed made a presentation about the toxin levels in Carnegie Lake. He said the Watershed monitors the water going into the lake and the water coming out of the lake but they do not monitor the lake itself. He discussed the phosphorus levels, fertilizer levels, oxygen levels, E.coli and the effect of impervious surface coverage on the water quality. He said the watershed is investigating a grant from the DEP that would allow them to look at ways in which municipalities can offset impervious coverage in order to improve the water quality. He also discussed ways in which green infrastructure can improve water quality. Fichtenbaum thanked Pisauro for giving the presentation and asked if he could send a copy of it to the Commission. She also noted that Princeton University owns the lake and she has been in touch with its Director of Sustainability and she was interested yet cautious about the project to improve the water quality in Carnegie Lake. It was suggested that the watershed try and get West Windsor on board with this as well.
- e) **Green Development Checklist:** Fichtenbaum noted that this project is moving along. She had a meeting and the Planning Board has identified 18 applications that have submitted the green development checklist since the

ordinance was adopted in 2013. She said these applications will be analyzed to see how effective or ineffective the list is and what the next steps should be. She noted that the PEC may want to revisit the list and perhaps update it.

- f) **Health Impact Assessment Workshop:** Fichtenbaum stated that Saks has volunteered to attend this workshop and said she needs an approval from the PEC to pay/reimburse Saks for the \$95.00 registration fee. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve this cost.
- g) **Development Application Review Process:** Fichtenbaum noted that she spoke with Lempert regarding the development application review process and why the PEC is always under the gun to get these reports out. She said there was a decision made about 10 years that the PEC memos would go through SPRAB and once the application was reviewed by SPRAB, all of the memos and recommendations would then go to the Planning Board. She said that the PEC may want to consider the idea of skipping SPRAB and having the memos go directly to the Planning Board, as it may help with timing. Simon suggested that Fichtenbaum speak with Dashield and see if it is in the ordinance that the PEC sends its memos to SPRAB, and if not than the process could change allowing the PEC to submit to the Planning Board.
- h) **Sustainable Princeton:** Symington stated she spoke with the MCIA and Trenton Bio-gas and it was indicated that they are likely to get up and running in September. She noted that there is a 2 day conference at Rutgers on 4/27 & 4/28 about converting food waste to energy. She said the PEC may want to weigh in on the environmental impacts of turning food waste into energy. She noted that the first day of the conference looks like more scientific presentations and day 2 is more interesting – the CEO of Trenton Bio-gas will be there. It was suggested that someone from Council and at least one person from the PEC attend. She said she attended the DPW meeting where Hough made a presentation about the EV charging stations and said based on his research it would cost the municipality about \$16,000.00. She said that Council thought the cost was too high. She said she is looking for grants and private funding. She also noted that NRG offered to give the equipment to the town at 50% off. She said another option would be to lease the equipment.
- i) **Council Updates:** Simon said with regards to construction and demo waste, there is a town in NJ passed an ordinance on this subject. He said Princeton is looking at ways to tie this ordinance into the existing trash and recycling ordinance. He also noted that Council favorably reviewed this. Fichtenbaum said it looks promising.
- j) **SBMWS Stream Cleanup:** Fichtenbaum said the cleanup is scheduled for April 23, 106 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Pisauro said the cleanup is being held at Grover Park. He asked SP and the PEC to get the word out about this event. It was suggested that he send the information to Access Princeton and also get the information posted on the PTO website. There was brief discussion about changing the location of the stream cleanup to another location. Pisauro stated that everyone can meet at Grover Park and if someone would like to go to another location they can discuss it at that time.

VI. Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Debra L. Mercantini

Date Approved: April 27, 2016