

**PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 14, 2012– 7:30pm**  
**Community Room**  
**Township Municipal Building**  
**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 Township and Borough Clerks.

**II. Chair Wasserman opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.**

Present were: Kaczerski, Wasserman, Miller, Fichtenbaum, Rojer, Ullman.

Absent were: Hamilton, Hiltner, Herlihy, Applegate, Lempert and Crumiller

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

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

**IV. Minutes:**

Kaczerski noted that she had a few minor changes that she would email to Rogers. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of October 24, 2012 as written and amended.

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

**VI. Discussion and Decisions:**

- a) Wasserman noted that Borough Council voted against asking an independent consultant to look at the Phase I & II Avalon Bay documents. He stated that Kevin Wilkes said there was a problem with the noticing. The Commission then had a lengthy discussion regarding the next steps since this was not approved by Borough Council. During the discussion it was noted by Ullman that the Regional Planning Board has very tight deadlines with the application and a decision has to be reached by the end of the meeting on December 16, 2012 unless the applicant is willing to grant the Board an extension of time. It was decided that the PEC would send a memo to Borough Council expressing its dismay over the decision and offering to fund a substantial portion of the cost if that was the reason for its decision. After much discussion a motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted to send the following memo. Ullman abstained. The exact wording of the memo to be sent to Borough Council:

**We were very dismayed to learn that the Borough Council did not authorize an independent environmental consultant to review the voluminous amount of environmental documents associated with this application, and to consider whether additional sampling would be required, as requested by the Planning Board and the PEC. This review should include all documents submitted to the record of this application.**

**The potential impact of this property is so important that to make a less than fully informed decision could risk the health and welfare of the future residents of this development and the surrounding community. We believe this review is vital to making a responsible decision on the application.**

**Therefore, we request that the Borough Council reconsider their decision immediately in order to meet the decision timeline on the application.**

**If the cost of this independent review is a barrier to hiring an independent environmental consultant, the PEC hereby offers to make a significant financial contribution to fund such a consultant.**

- b) **Recycling:** Wasserman noted that the resolution that was sent to the MCIA regarding adding items #3-7 in the recyclable containers will also be considered by Township Committee at its next meeting.
- c) **New Town Environmental Goals:** Wasserman said that Lempert has asked the PEC to think about what environmental goals it would like to see the new government tackle in its first year. Ullman suggested they work on getting the leaves out of the street. Wasserman said he would like the members to think about this and it will be the main discussion item for the meeting in December. He said it can be discussed through email to come up with ideas and then the Commission will be ready to discuss them at the December meeting.
- d) **2012 Budget:** Wasserman suggested holding off on the discussion and to wait and see if Borough Council decides to use the PEC funds for an Independent Environmental Consultant. Kaczerski suggested that perhaps Sustainable Princeton to use the funds if Borough Council decides not to use the funds. A motion was made and seconded deciding that if Borough Council declines the PEC offer to use its funds, then the funds will be allocated to Sustainable Princeton. The Commission voted unanimously to approve this motion. Please note that Wasserman, Kaczerski and Fichtenbaum abstained from this vote.
- e) **Chairs Report:** Wasserman noted that next year, a PEC member will be sitting on the Regional Planning Board as well. He wanted people to start thinking about this and if it is something that they can commit to, however, he said this will depend on who is appointed to the new Commission.

He said the December meeting will be the last official meeting of this Commission and he suggested that everyone get together for dinner prior to the meeting.

He also noted that the MCIA decided that the trash collection RFQ was incomplete. They decided that the trash portion needs to be rebid. He said it will be up to the new government to decide how the food waste portion is going to be paid. He suggested the PEC keep close tabs on this as the Commission would like to see the program expanded.

- f) **Open Space:** Miller noted that the ANJEC meeting scheduled for 11/16/12 had been canceled. He asked Wasserman about the letter that was going to be sent to the PTO regarding Safe Playing Fields. Wasserman said he would be working on that letter. Miller suggested cc'ing Ms. Chorney of the Green Schools Council. Miller also discussed a seminar he attended where the discussion was about fracking.
- g) **Green Building:** Kaczerski inquired about the memo it sent to the Regional Planning Board regarding the green building checklist. She said she thought that was something that the Planning Board was going to consider this year. Ullman said that the Planning Board has been extremely busy and it is more than likely that this topic will not be discussed until next year.
- h) **Development Application Subcommittee:** Wasserman stated that the PEC has been much more beneficial to the Princeton Community thanks to the hard work of this subcommittee. He thanked them for all of their hard work! Kaczerski said she read a letter to the editor from Jane Buttars critiquing the PEC memo regarding Avalon Bay. Fichtenbaum suggested having someone from the PEC at the Avalon bay meeting to clarify any misunderstanding with the PEC memo and state what the PEC's intent is regarding the sampling.
- i) **Health Commission:** Rojer noted that the Health Commission meeting is not until the following week. Kaczerski asked if the Avalon Bay application is the agenda for that meeting. Rojer said he is not sure that the Health Commission is going to take an official stand on the application.
- j) **Regional Planning Board:** Ullman said the old property of the Westerly Road Church may be coming through the Planning Board next year. She said to keep an eye out for that. She also noted that the Circulation Subcommittee of the Planning Board has been working very hard on this element of the Master Plan.

**VII. Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Debra Rogers, Secretary**

**Date Approved: December 12, 2012**