

**PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 27, 2016– 7:30 pm**  
**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, Glover (via telephone), Sacks, DiFerdinando, TechCzarny, Symington and Simon

Absent were: Marcus-Levine, Zemble, Birge

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

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

**IV. Minutes:**

- a) A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes for May 2016 and June 2016 as written.

**V. Discussion/Decisions:**

- a) **Council Update:** Simon noted that there has been 44 ½ tons of compost collected and there are 1,118 participants. He said the DPW strategic plan should be out later this year. And lastly he noted that there are 40 landscapers registered in the town.
- b) **Sustainable Princeton Presentation on the Sustainable Jersey Gold Star Standards:** Symington stated that Princeton is currently Silver certified and is in the process of applying for re-certification. She said the Gold standard approach is not just based on points (like the Silver certification) but rather on things that are more measurable and more quantitative. She said the Gold standards focus mainly on energy and waste and then residential and municipal standards for each. Sustainable Jersey is hoping that communities will apply for this certification because it will prove to have long term environmental benefits. Fichtenbaum noted that the Nassau Street study is a huge opportunity to think about waste and energy reduction issues in a town wide way. The Commission then had a brief discussion on energy and waste initiatives such as solar panels and “pay as you throw”. Symington noted that Sustainable Jersey’s certification model is one of the best in the country.
- c) **Green Development Checklist:** Fichtenbaum stated that she is running behind on collecting the data but will work more on this during the next

month. Simon said he is willing to assist her if she would like. Fichtenbaum said she would arrange a time when she could meet with Simon to go over the goals and explain what needs to be done.

- d) **EV Ordinance:** Glovier stated that an update needs to be done to the zoning and parking ordinances to encourage EV charging stations and to have it as an acceptable accessory use. She said she would like to get a working group together to figure out the best approach for Princeton with regards to EV charging stations. Fichtenbaum discussed the steps to create a good EV charger ordinance. Simon suggested that Glovier get as much information as possible and then work up some options to be discussed with staff. He volunteered to speak with the Administrator and find out which staff members would be best suited to become part of the working group. Symington noted that there are other EV chargers in the works for; the Yedlin application; Princeton shopping center; and Princeton University.
- e) **Construction Waste/Recycling Ordinance:** Simon stated that this ordinance is in the process – he said he does not have a date yet for when it will be coming to Council. Fichtenbaum asked if he could have a more concrete date for the PEC September meeting. He said yes, he will try and get a date and announce it at the September PEC meeting. He also noted that this ordinance is part of a larger ordinance review effort.
- f) **Zoning Study Nassau Street:** Fichtenbaum stated that she sent an email to the consultant for this project outlining some of the environmental issues that the PEC has discussed regarding this project. She read the email to the Commission and stated that if anyone has any other suggestions to please email her and she will forward it on to the consultant. Symington stated that the consultants should be aware that LED lighting with cutoff is preferred. Fichtenbaum stated that she would pass that on to the consultant.
- g) **Lake Carnegie Update:** Tech-Czarny stated that he has been reaching out to the Princeton University but hasn't been able to connect with the appropriate party yet. He is hoping to make that connection soon and set up a meeting.
- h) **ANJEC Grant/Woodfield Reservation:** Glovier stated that the volunteers have been working diligently and are making great progress with the trails. She said she sent out another press release but it was not picked up by the media. Fichtenbaum suggested getting a picture with Robert Kiser working out there since his retirement from Princeton; she said the media would be sure to pick up the story. Simon suggested sending the press release to all Council members so they could be kept updated as well. Glovier said she is hoping to have the project completed in the fall.
- i) **Communication/Website:** Fichtenbaum said she sent the link out to everyone for the website that Birge put together. She said when the town rolls out the new website, this can migrate over. She asked for suggestions about what information should go on the site. Suggestions were; current projects, resolutions passed by the PEC, Memo's for development applications, projects with Sustainable Princeton, "leave the leaves". She said she is looking for volunteers to help out with the website.

- j) **SPRAB/Development Applications:** Fichtenbaum stated that this application is for the old SAVE animal shelter. Walker stated that this is a standard office development with parking. He stated that he has an issue with the number of trees that are proposed to be removed. Fichtenbaum said that the applicant is proposing a sea of parking. She said she is surprised that they didn't propose a building that was more elongated in order to maximize the solar angle to save energy. She also noted that they have windows proposed on all 4 sides of the building. Walker noted that one of the variances the applicant is seeking is for a small parking space. He said the zoning requirements are what is driving the amount of parking on the site. The PEC had a discussion on the memo and suggested revisions to encourage best storm water practices, make adjustments to the waste section, energy efficiency section, tree preservation section, and also to commend the applicant for including EV charging stations and outdoor LED lighting and solar power. A motion was made and seconded and the PEC voted unanimously to approve the Memo.
- k) **Flood Control Ordinance:** Fichtenbaum noted that this ordinance has already passed Council but she received an email from Grace Sinden (she distributed through email to Commission members) and she thought some good points were raised in that email. Simon noted Council also received her change requests to the ordinance but they were under a strict deadline and did not have time to amend the ordinance. He said the ordinance may be amended based on staff's recommendations about her comments. A representative from the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed stated that vegetarian clearing can be detrimental and that the ordinance should also protect the stream corridor. Fichtenbaum wanted it noted that the PEC supports her comments.
- l) **Council Update Part 2:** Simon noted that the Shade Tree Commission has proposed some changes to the Shade Tree Ordinance. He noted that there will be a public hearing on this ordinance on August 8<sup>th</sup> and he discussed some of the changes that included a 4 to 1 replacement for healthy trees, standardizing the fees and streamlining the administrative process.
- m) **Special Transportation Letter:** Fichtenbaum stated that Lempert forwarded a letter to her that was asking for Princeton's support in encouraging non-driving forms of transportation. She said this could dovetail into the Sustainable Jersey Gold Standards. She said she would encourage the Mayor to include greenhouse gas measure for all transportation measures. She said she will forward the email to the Commission members to review.
- n) **Sustainable Princeton Update:** Symington noted that the EV charging station is almost fully funded and it should be on Council's agenda very soon. She said she recently attended a Green Team meeting and the topic was the Electronic Waste Bill. She noted that manufacturers should be offering a means to recycle and they are doing this and therefore these items are ending up in the landfill. She said the Mayor suggested that the PEC submit a resolution in support of this bill. Fichtenbaum stated that Council should be encouraging people to recycle their electronic waste properly (convenience

center, MCIA recycling day, Shreddfest, etc.). She said the PEC could draft a resolution and encourage Council to do the same. Simon suggested that the draft resolution be forwarded to himself, Bob Hough and Liz Lempert and he would take the draft to the DPW meeting. Fichtenbaum suggested by-passing the PEC because the next meeting isn't scheduled until the end of September.

- o) **Composting in the Schools:** Sacks reported that the school district has secured a contractor for composting the food waste in the schools.

**VI. Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Debra L. Mercantini, Secretary**

**Date Approved:**