

**Princeton Environmental Commission**  
 Monthly Meeting Minutes  
**January 25, 2017**  
 Witherspoon Hall-Meeting Room A  
 400 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Present

**Board Members:**

Sophie Glovier, Chair  
 Heidi Fichtenbaum, Vice  
 Chair  
 Lisa Marcus-Levine  
 Steve Miller, Board of  
 Health  
 Mia Sacks  
 Tammy Sands  
 Christine Symington,  
 Sustainable Princeton  
 Zenon Tech-Czarny  
 Timothy Quinn  
 Brian Walker

**Staff:**

Ben Strauss, Board Secretary

**Guests:**

Cynthia Sage  
 Michael Pisauro, Stony  
 Brook-Millstone  
 Watershed  
 Caroline Hancock, Citizen's  
 Climate Lobby  
 Alex Piet, Citizen's Climate  
 Lobby  
 Hessam Akhlaghpour,  
 Citizen's Climate Lobby

Absent

**Board Members:**

George DiFerdinando, Board  
 of Health Liaison  
 Haewon Park  
 Karen Zemble

At 7:33 pm, Chair Glovier calls the meeting to order by reading the 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 Princeton Clerk."

**I. Roll Call (7:30 p.m.)**

Chair Glovier calls roll.

## **II. Approval of Agenda (7:31 p.m.)**

Ms. Fichtenbaum motions to approve the agenda. Ms. Sacks seconds. The Commission unanimously approves the agenda.

## **III. Approval of Minutes 7:45 p.m.**

### **a. December 14, 2016**

Ms. Fichtenbaum motions to approve both minutes. Ms. Marcus-Levine seconds. The Commission unanimously approves both minutes.

### **b. December 22, 2016 Special Meeting**

Above.

## **IV. Public Comment (7:50 p.m.)**

No member of the public wishes to make a comment.

## **V. Discussions and Decisions (8:00 p.m.)**

### **a. 2017 Administrative Matters**

#### **i. Introduction of new member(s)**

Chair Glovier introduces Ms. Sands. She comes from a healthcare background and she now goes to law school for environmental law.

#### **ii. Introduction of new Council Liaison**

Chair Glovier introduces Council Member Quinn. She and Ms. Fichtenbaum talked to Council Member Quinn about 2017 objectives and past activities.

#### **iii. Announcement of new Chair**

Chair Glovier expresses appreciation for her election as Chair. She thanks the members for all their hard work and Ms. Fichtenbaum for chairing last year.

iv. Election of Vice Chair

Mr. Tech-Czarny nominates Ms. Fichtenbaum. Ms. Sacks seconds. The Commission unanimously approves the motion.

v. Secretary Resolution

Chair Glovier summarizes the resolution to make Mr. Strauss recording secretary from January 2017 to January 2018. A member notes that Ms. Mercantini continues as corresponding secretary. Vice Chair Fichtenbaum seconds. The Commission unanimously approves the motion. Chair Glovier welcomes Mr. Strauss.

b. Council Update (Quinn)

Council Member Quinn mentions the Council consolidating the garbage and refuse chapters of the ordinances. Council will consider the ordinance on Monday, February 13.

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum expresses concerns about her comments not being incorporated into those changes. For example, she wants waste tickets to be required before developers receive a permit, to encourage developers to provide waste tickets. Council Member Quinn mentions that Council might not have followed some suggestions to not contravene state law and the Uniform Construction Code (UCC). He will follow up with Vice Chair Fichtenbaum. He will also advocate for Environmental Commission suggestions.

c. Radon Discussion

Ms. Marcus-Levine discusses her research into the possible purchasing of radon-testing machines: Each machine costs between \$150 and \$200. The Health Department used to offer small kits to test for radon. Yet, a machine could give better readings than the kits.

She anticipates, if the Commission, possibly with the Health Department, could purchase several machines, they could ask the library or Ace Hardware to make them available. She has not yet

talked to the Health Department, the library or Ace Hardware. She wants to hear feedback from the Commission first before expanding her research.

A member asks why someone would test for radon again, when that person already had tested for radon upon purchasing their house. Radon levels depend on a lot of variables: season, humidity, temperature, etc. Readings can fluctuate day-by-day. The machines, unlike the one-shot kits, allow people to test on different days to correct for those fluctuations.

A member also asked, how much does professional testing cost?

Chair Glovier will look into the Commission budget. Ms. Marcus-Levine will conduct further research into the machines.

d. Site Plan Review Advisory Board SPRAB Appointment (Lisa Marcus-Levine was in 2016)

Ms. Sands moves the appointment of Ms. Marcus-Levine. Vice Chair Fichtenbaum seconds. The Commission unanimously approves the motion.

e. Citizen's Climate Lobby Resolution

The Commission discusses the nomenclature of the resolution: "fee" vs. "tax" vs. "fee/dividend". Ms. Hancock from Citizen's Climate Lobby clarifies that people refer to certain fees like the "cigarette tax" as a "tax" based on how the government imposes it. She views the wording as interchangeable, so she sees no problem changing the wording to "fee". Vice Chair Fichtenbaum prefers the terminology of a "fee/dividend". She worries that the tax might happen without a dividend, especially given her understanding of the current federal government administration. So, she wants the resolution to say, "revenue neutral carbon fee/dividend".

Chair Glovier asks what Citizen's Climate Lobby wants from the Commission. Ms. Hancock requests the Commission recommend endorsement of the resolution to Council. Vice Chair Fichtenbaum suggests the Commission pass a resolution, which includes an encouragement for Council to pass a similar resolution.

Motion to approve the resolution with wording changes

<p>Result: Adopted [Unanimous] Mover: Fichtenbaum</p>
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Seconders: Sacks, Walker

Ayes: Glovier, Fichtenbaum, Walker, Marcus-Levine, Sands, Symington, Quinn

f. Invasive Species Grant Proposal

Chair Glovier requests the Commission's feedback on applying for another Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) grant. In a past year, they received a grant to clear up trails in Princeton's Woodfield Reservation. Chair Glovier talked with Princeton Friends of Open Space about applying for a grant to run educational programs on invasive species. The program could qualify residents to identify invasive species and help with invasive species removal. The deadline is in April.

Chair Glovier also mentions that the new round of Green Acres funds can be applied to stewardship of open space. Friends of Princeton Open Space has created a proposal to submit to Green Acres to remove invasive species and restore native species in the Western Woods section of the Greater Mountain Lakes area. The Planning Board and Council have endorsed the application. They want the Commission to also endorse the application.

Motion in support of the letter

Result: Adopted [Unanimous]

Mover: Sands

Seconders: Fichtenbaum

Ayes: Glovier, Fichtenbaum, Walker, Marcus-Levine, Tech-Czarny, Sacks, Sands, Symington, Quinn

g. Leaf Collection Trial Proposal

Chair Glovier introduces Mr. Hiltner, a former Environmental Commission member. Mr. Hiltner presents on his funding request for a leaf collection container pilot. He has been concerned about leaf collection for a long time. When he lived in Durham, North Carolina, and Ann Arbor, Michigan, he could only use reusable leaf collection containers. Now, in Princeton, he can use a leaf bag but ultimately must leave the leaves on the street without a reusable container.

Chair Glovier asks about the annual expense for leaf collection. Mr. Hiltner says he asked multiple times for figures. He never received complete figures but he estimated it at around \$1

million per year.

Mr. Hiltner lists his concerns with loose leaf collection: messy streets from March through December, landscape companies ignoring complex pickup schedules, loose piles blocking traffic and bikes lanes (kids have died playing in leaves in other towns), environmental problems resulting from, for instance, nutrient runoff from leaves into streams, big patches of dead grass, pavement scarred from the pickup claw, and others. He wants an \$8,500 pilot.

A member asks if the town staff will agree to the pilot if Mr. Hiltner receives the money. He expects some long-time staff love the leaf bags and dislike reusable containers He worked with Mr. Hough, Mr. Wasserman, Ms. Chorney and Mr. Simon to present the plan to the Public Works Committee. The committee then voted it down.

He received five reasons for rejection from Council President Crumiller. For instance, she said that the pilot required the municipality to buy a new truck, a cost-prohibitive expense. Yet, Mr. Hiltner believes the town can simply inexpensively retrofit one of their trucks with a tipper hook. He finds all five reasons do not make sense. He can send the five reasons and his rebuttals to the Commission.

Does Sustainable Jersey provide any points for it? No specific action item but possibly a general category.

What about using the compost bin for leaves? The compost bin only has a 32 gallon capacity. Compost carts usually have a 64 or 96 gallon capacity.

How do you envision people initially signing up for the program? The municipality only needs one retrofitted truck for the entire town. So, the pilot could cover all of Princeton or a specific part of the borough given the small lots there.

Any limitation to what a person can place in a compost bin? Princeton depends on Lawrenceville for their grinder and Lawrenceville has one grinder for leaves and one grinder for brush. So, Princeton needs two separate pickups for leaves and yard waste.

How does this lead eventually to an overall organics system? Mr. Hiltner considers the pilot an incremental step toward an overall system. The pilot will serve the leaf problem well. It could also potentially solve future composting problems.

Chair Glovier thanks Mr. Hilton for his work on the issue. He will send Chair Glovier more information. And she and he will discuss the issue more in the future.

#### h. PEC 2017 Goals

Chair Glovier suggests to better accomplish the Commission's goals the members divide the leadership roles amongst themselves. She suggests they discuss the issue more next month.

#### i. Update on ordinances in development

##### i. Consolidated Storm water Control & Impervious Cover

Chair Glovier reports that the Watershed gave a great presentation to Council (see video [here](#)). Instead of drafting ordinance language, the Watershed asked Council's opinion on three major issues:

- 1) Sites being redeveloped: will Princeton ask developers to take responsibility for all storm water on their site rather than solely for incremental impervious surface? This is a practice endorsed by the E.P.A. but not in effect in peer municipalities.
- 2) Minor developments: what is the trigger point (currently 400 square feet of added impervious surface in the borough: 250 square feet is the Watershed recommendation)?
- 3) Maintenance: will we require maintenance of the storm water systems?

Council is tentatively scheduled to review these issues at their meeting on March 13. Based on input received there, the new ordinance will be drafted.

Mr. Pisauro, Policy Director for the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, talks about impervious surfaces in Princeton: his organization has a 319 grant to improve waterways and to improve water quality. As part of that project, his organization wants to analyze and reduce impervious cover (by either removing paved surfaces or adding new green infrastructure) in municipalities in their area.

He clarifies that his organization has some money to contribute to implementation. He

wants to partner with other organizations in making these improvements.

He gives the Commission a list of candidate sites (chosen for high impervious cover, location near a waterway, or municipal ownership) for removing impervious cover in Princeton. He asks for feedback and members give him feedback. For example, a member mentions that Princeton Public Schools might need a new building given their high, high school enrollment.

Chair Glovier asks about the Watershed's Tap Watch program. He reports it is up and running. Chair Glovier thanks Mr. Pisauro and Mr. Pisauro thanks Chair Glovier.

## ii. Construction Waste

The Commission discussed it during Council Member Quinn's update.

## iii. Electric Vehicle Service Equipment (EVSE)

Chair Glovier will resend her comments on the ordinance to Council Member Quinn and Council Member Quinn will send it to Princeton's lawyer.

## j. Invasive Species Management Plan/NJISST Do Not Plant List

When Council passed the resolution to endorse the Do Not Plant List, they requested in the resolution the Environmental Commission help them publicize the list. So, Chair Glovier, Vice Chair Fichtenbaum, and Ms. Mager wrote a Letter to the Editor in the Town Topics. After having to bump the letter for two weeks because of the charter school debate, Mr. Mitchner from the Town Topics told Chair Glovier, it will run next week.

They have also been talking to the library about an event in May, to educate the community about invasive species.

## k. Development Application Review Committee

The committee has no development applications to discuss.

## **VI. Reports from Liaisons (9:50 p.m.)**

i. Princeton Board of Health (DiFerdinando)

Mr. Miller gives an update on the past meeting (see the minutes [here](#)). A member suggests collaboration between the two commissions on lead initiatives.

ii. Sustainable Princeton (Symington)

Ms. Symington gives her update: the bill to ensure free access to dispose electronic waste passed. The Commission should not worry about residents having to pay for e-waste.

The electric charging station project in Princeton municipal parking lot will move forward in a few weeks. The engineer has already begun work on the project.

She reports that the recycling brochure will be sent by February 10.

She also reports on the last of the “great ideas” events on the circular economy last week. She saw great attendance at the event and heard great feedback about the event.

iii. Princeton Planning Board (Tech-Czarny)

Mr. Tech-Czarny reports on the Planning Board meeting last week: the Planned Board discussed storm water. They passed the resolution on the stewardship grant. They also passed the Yedlin site plan. A members asks if that board required any modifications for approval. Mr. Tech-Czarny does not know.

A member asks about the schedule for the comprehensive review of the master plan. The Planning Board did not discuss any part of the master plan at their last meeting. Mr. Tech-Czarny requested to be on that committee. The Commission wants a sustainability element in the plan. Chair Glover asks if the Commission wants to write something about the sustainability element. She also suggests the Commission collect examples of other town’s sustainability elements. Council Member Quinn suggests the Commission might want to take the lead in writing it. Members agree to discuss it more in future meetings.

Ms. Symington mentions the 10 points Princeton would receive for a sustainability element in their master plan. Members express appreciation for that fact.

iv. Princeton Recreation Department (Stentz)

The Department has no update.

**VII. Announcements**

Climate Action Plan

A member asks about the Climate Action Plan. Sustainable Princeton continues work on laying the framework for it and is looking for funders. .

**VIII. Adjourn** (10:00 p.m.)

At 9:24 pm, Chair Glovier adjourned the meeting to unanimous consent.