



Princeton Environmental Commission

Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2017

Witherspoon Hall-Meeting Room A
400 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Present

Board Members:

Heidi Fichtenbaum, Vice
Chair

Lisa Marcus-Levine

Mia Sacks

Tammy Sands

Christine Symington,
Sustainable Princeton

Zenon Tech-Czarny

Timothy Quinn

Brian Walker

Karen Zemble

Staff:

Ben Strauss, Board Secretary

Guests:

Michael Pisauero, Stony
Brook-Millstone

Watershed

Jack West, Princeton

Engineering

Janet Heroux, Bicycle
Advisory Committee Chair

Absent

Board Members:

Sophie Glovier, Chair

George DiFerdinando, Board
of Health Liaison

Steve Miller, Board of
Health Liaison

Haewon Park

At 7:31 pm, Vice Chair Fichtenbaum 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.)

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum calls roll.

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

Mr. Tech-Czarny motions to approve the agenda. Ms. Sands seconds. The Commission unanimously approves the agenda.

III. Approval of Minutes (7:45 p.m.)

a. February 22 Meeting

Mr. Tech-Czarny motions to approve the February 22 meeting minutes. Ms. Sands seconds. The Commission unanimously approves the agenda.

IV. Public Comment 7:50 p.m.

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum recognizes the members of the public. They already have an item on the agenda.

V. Discussions and Decisions 8:00 p.m.

a. Council Update (Quinn)

Council Member Quinn reports that, on March 27, Council will hear the Citizen Climate Lobby resolution. He also reports on the status of the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Ordinance (see ‘Update on Ordinances in Development’ below).

b. Bicycle Master Plan Update (Heroux)

Chair of the Bicycle Advisory Committee Heroux reports on the status of the bicycle master plan (see it [here](#)). The municipality commissioned a bicycle study from the consulting firm Parsons Brinckerhoff. The consultants received feedback from the community, the Bicycle committee and other interested parties; they then created a plan, containing an analysis of the current situation and a proposal for a connected, community bike network. Chair Heroux wants the plan to encourage a cultural shift in cycling in Princeton. She does not need details now. She encourages committee members to look at the plan on the municipal website.

Mr. Solow has been updating the report to include complete streets language. After Mr. Solow finishes updating the plan, the Planning Board will vote to adopt it as an element of the master plan. Mr. Tech-Czarny clarifies the Planning Board may decide to vote to adopt the more general plan or both the more general plan and the more specific appendix. If the Planning Board votes to adopt both the plan and the appendix, the Board must first notify affected residents-for instance, a bike lane in front of a person’s house-almost all residents in the case of this proposal, and then hold public hearings. Council Member Quinn feels that some committee members worry about that process delaying adoption of the element. Council Member Quinn expresses his

personal feelings for having the notification and hearings sooner on one appendix rather than later on multiple, individual projects.

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum asks about any planned improvements for bicycle parking. Chair Heroux reports that the consultants created recommendations for parking needs. The committee then compared the recommendations to other municipalities. She will send it to the committee and Mr. West, Princeton Engineer. Mr. West can recommend bike rack numbers in his memo to developers even without an ordinance, and the commission will also include the number in their memo to developers as well.

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum expresses enthusiasm on behalf of the commission for the bicycle master plan. If the Bicycle Advisory Committee wants a letter or resolution of support, the Environmental Commission will provide it. Members discuss cycling in Princeton.

c. Upcoming events

i. *Stream Clean up*

The committee and the Watershed will hold a stream clean up Saturday, April 22, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, off Alexander Road by the canal.

ii. *March for Climate*

The Climate March will happen, in D.C. and locally, on Saturday, April 29.

d. Invasive Species Grant Proposal

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum reports that Chair Glover and Ms. Mager, President of Friends of Princeton Open Space, have been working on the committee's next grant application. The committee hopes to receive money to train volunteers to raise awareness about invasive species. She shares copies of the application with members. Members ask questions about it.

Motion to approve the grant proposal

Result: Adopted [Unanimous]

Mover: Sands

Seconder: Zemble, Tech-Czarny

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

e. Green Building Checklist Update

Ms. Sands reports that she and Vice Chair Fichtenbaum reached out to eight builders about the green building development checklist: five builders completed it, two have not, and one had an incomplete response. Ms. Sands has been working with the builder who submitted the incomplete response. Ms. Sands and Vice Chair Fichtenbaum plan complete the survey before June.

f. Sustainability Component, Master Plan

A subcommittee convened on creating a sustainability component for the master plan. Mr. Tech-Czarny researched ‘green building and sustainability’ elements. Then, in Google Docs, he created a preliminary outline of possible core topics: green building, water (storm water or drinking water), green economy, land use and mobility, health (of humans or of the environment), natural resources, renewable energy, greenhouse gases, climate change, food systems, waste management, and education and outreach.

Subcommittee members have been reaching out to various stakeholders. Chair Glovier reached out to Molly Jones. Tech-Czarny has talked to Ms. Ullman, Chair of the Planning Board’s master plan subcommittee. They want to coordinate also with Sustainable Jersey and the Climate Action Plan. They expect to propose the element in 2018.

g. Update on ordinances in development

i. *Consolidated Stormwater Control & Impervious Cover*

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum gives a brief update on ordinance progress: Mr. West, Princeton’s Land Use Engineer, presented to Council at their meeting on March 13. Committee and community members also attended. The committee and Mr. West discuss the five points of the ordinance:

- 1) Definition of impervious: Mr. West thinks everyone agrees with the proposed definition. It exists mainly to limit disturbance, not to manage storm water.
- 2) Minor development: Mr. West sent his proposal to Chair Glovier and Mr. Pisauro. Council will decide if they want a 250 or 400 threshold. Mr. West wants a requirement that for every square foot of impervious surface, a required storage of 2 gallons of water, if the storm water does not impact immediate neighbors or 3 to 1, if impact to immediate neighbors. He thinks the proposal addresses both the committee’s concerns about Engineering Department discretion and staff’s concern about the impact on neighbors.

3) Major development: the waiver process alleviates staff's concern about municipal projects, for instance, the municipality building bike paths.

4) Inspections: staff has concerns about the number of inspections, currently proposed at four times a year, which take staff time, and about inspections for single-family homes. Vice Chair Fichtenbaum expresses particular concern about maintenance for manufactured treatment devices in large developments. Mr. West has no problem with yearly inspection for those devices.

5) Redevelopment: staff has legal concerns. They do not know of any other municipalities that have completed it. Mr. Pisauro has been looking into legal precedent for it. He reports that he has found redevelopment permits in other state ordinances and potentially one New Jersey municipality (he continues to try to follow up with them).

Ms. Zemble spoke out against removing the redevelopment part of the proposed storm water ordinance, because she thought this removal would exempt many of the upcoming projects of the University and IAS

Mr. West wants to complete the ordinance in April to harmonize the ordinance. He does not want repeated delays. He prefers to add the redevelopment part in phase two. They can introduce the rest of the ordinance later, at any time. Members discuss introducing the ordinance at two separate times. Mr. West will present to Council again later in April.

ii. *Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE)*

Council Member Quinn expresses his desire for the committee to consider the EV Charging ordinance a 2018 goal. He talked to Mr. Solow, Princeton's Planning Director and the municipal attorney for planning. The municipal attorney said she would require 20 to 40 hours of fee legal to fix the ordinance. (Ms. Zemble, an attorney, disagrees with this assessment). Council Member Quinn feels the ordinance would only affect about 10 percent of public charging stations, the relatively small number not in resident's personal garages (Vice Chair Fichtenbaum disagrees that garage location matters for the ordinance). He also mentions that the attorney expressed confusion surrounding the ordinance's enforcement function, whether zoning or police, and that Council did not consider the ordinance a 2017 goal. He thus feels that the ordinance would be too costly to complete in 2017 and should be done in 2018.

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum understands Council Member Quinn's concerns about the process but does not understand his concerns about the ordinance itself. She mentions that Chair Glover asked to attend the meeting with the municipal attorney but did not receive permission to meet with her. Council Member Quinn also did not provide a list of the attorney's objections to the committee. He will provide it. Vice Chair Fichtenbaum expresses frustration that committee members spent a lot of time and used a lot of professional expertise on the ordinance for it not to be implemented this year. Council Member Quinn understands her frustration but still does not wish to spend a lot of municipal resources on an issue not one of Council's 2017 goals.

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum summarizes possible, future committee action on the issue as one of the three following: work on it next year, address the ordinance's issues with committee members or find a consultant to work on its issues.

h. Radon initiative

Ms. Marcus-Levine gives a brief status update. She and Ms. Sacks continue to work on the issue.

i. Night light initiative proposal

Ms. Camen, Mr. Navarsky and Mr. Casterly express their concerns as firefly aficionados that they did not see any fireflies last year. They want to encourage their neighbors to turn off their lights at night.

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum mentions how, in development applications, the committee encourages people to place their lights on timers or photo sensors, and to provide full cutoff features to direct light downward onto surfaces. The committee had not looked at it from a firefly perspective but from an energy and night sky pollution perspective. The committee could add the impact on species like fireflies as another reason to limit the amount and duration of light in developments.

Ms. Camen] considers the issue more about residential than business areas and the solution more education than regulation. Members discuss possible solutions to the problem, for instance, a public event on fireflies or a letter to the editor about the issue.

j. Development Application Review Committee

The committee does not discuss any development applications.

VI. Reports from Liaisons 9:50 p.m.

i. Princeton Board of Health (DiFerdinando)

The board has no report.

ii. Sustainable Princeton (Symington/Jones)

Ms. Symington reports that the electrician will begin the installation of the electric charging station in Spring Street Garage in about 2 weeks. He had some other priorities for the municipality to complete first.

They have been working on a Green Purchasing Policy (for instance, the municipality's paper and grounds-they included the Do Not Plant List-purchasing) and an Adaptive Behavioral Policy (for instance, turn off lights when done using them). They will present the policies in a resolution to Council at its April 3rd meeting.

Sustainable Princeton, Mayor Lempert, Administrator Dashield and some others also met with two members of the Board of Public Utilities. They want a more in-depth energy audit of school and library buildings.

iii. Princeton Planning Board (Tech-Cznary)

The board has no additional report.

iv. Princeton Recreation Department (Stentz)

The Department has no report.

v. Princeton Joint Bike & Pedestrian Safety Committee (Sacks)

The committee has no report.

VII. Announcements

Members make no announcements to the committee.

VIII. Adjourn 10:00

At 9:41 PM, Ms. Sacks motions for adjournment. Ms. Marcus-Levine seconds. The committee unanimously approves adjournment.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ben Strauss, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: [To Be Inserted]