



Princeton Environmental Commission

Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 26, 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
Mia Sacks
Tammy Sands
Christine Symington,
Sustainable Princeton
Zenon Tech-Czarny
Timothy Quinn
Brian Walker
Karen Zemble

Staff:

Guests:

Katja Luxem, community
member

Absent

Board Members:

George DiFerdinando, Board
of Health Liaison
Steve Miller, Board of
Health Liaison
Haewon Park
[First Name?] Jones

At about 7:30 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.)

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

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

a. March 22 Meeting

Mr. Walker motions to approve the March 22 meeting minutes. Ms. Marcus-Levine seconds. The Commission unanimously approves the March minutes.

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

Chair Glovier recognizes the one members of the public: Ms. Luxem. She will speak during the storm water management agenda item.

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

a. Council Update (Quinn)

Council Member Quinn reports three Council Updates:

1) Council introduced, last night (April 25), an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging ordinance that establishing EV only spaces and rates in Spring Street Garage. Council will hear the ordinance at its second May Council meeting.

2) Council Member Quinn spoke with Janet Pellichero about Waste Management's organics transfer station in Ewing. The Solid Waste Advisory Council has not received an application to accept municipal organics in Ewing. When they apply, Council Member Quinn will introduce a resolution in Council supporting the application. Members discuss the procedure for applying for organic waste permits.

3) Council has reached a settlement "in principle" with Fair Share Housing on affordable housing in Princeton. The Planning Board and Council will review it tomorrow (April 26).

He also reports on the stormwater management and EVSE ordinances (discussed under ordinance updates).

b. Report on ANJEC training (Park, Tech-Czarny)

Mr. Tech-Czarny discusses the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) training he attended at the Plainsboro Preserve. The workshop had a beginner and

advanced track. In the Advanced track, they discussed the basics of environmental commissions, environmental resource inventories and more regional issues, including pipelines and storm water. Mr. Tech-Czarny recommends members visit ANJEC's [website](#) and read ANJEC's [Environmental Commissioners' Handbook](#).

Chair Glovier thanks Mr. Tech-Czarny for attending the training and expresses her desire to attend a future one.

c. Ordinance Updates:

i. Stormwater management

Council Member Quinn reports that Council did not move forward with the storm water ordinance given the large number of agenda items last night. Council will hear it May 8.

Chair Glovier introduces Ms. Luxem, a graduate in Geosciences at Princeton University, interested in helping the committee conduct research on storm water. Ms. Luxem introduces herself. She wants to learn more about environmental efforts in Princeton and possibly conduct a research project, on storm water specifically or water more generally. Chair Glovier will connect Ms. Luxem with the Watershed given their research on the storm water ordinance. Members discuss possible research projects. Ms. Luxem thanks members and members thank her.

ii. EVSE

Council Member Quinn reports that Chair Glovier, Ms. Symington and Council Member Quinn will meet tomorrow (April 27) afternoon with the municipal attorney and planner to discuss the status of the Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) ordinance.

iii. Construction Waste (not on original agenda)

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum reports that she researched other cities' explanations of their requirements for constructions projects' demolition waste. For instance, Vice Chair Fichtenbaum found that Austin has a good setup in explaining project requirements. They have qualified haulers and recycling places. The qualified haulers can then bring the waste to the recycling place for sorting and then the recycling place weighs the entire container (not the individual parts) so long as they meet the required average percentage for recycling. The Watershed used a similar type of recycling when they built their environmental center. Vice Chair Fichtenbaum wants a one-pager describing the different steps used by the available haulers in Princeton.

Austin also has a spreadsheet for projects and permit numbers. Builders fill it out and submit it at the end of each project. She wants a similar spreadsheet in Princeton. The one-pager could include links to online tools.

Ms. Symington mentions that Ms. Klockenbrink expressed interest in helping the committee as a summer intern. Ms. Klockenbrink could research information and design graphics for the info sheet. Chair Glovier asks Council Member Quinn to check any clearances required for the committee to have a summer intern.

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum suggests a 'Letter to the Editor' on the topic of construction waste. Chair Glovier will write it.

c. Stormwater Management Education (continued from discussion above)

Members discuss storm water management education, particularly regarding the Shopping Center. Vice Chair Fichtenbaum recalls that before the Shopping Center redid their parking lot, the committee had recommended various improvements to the project, for instance vegetative swales. The Shopping Center made some moderate improvements. For instance, they planted the vegetation, trees and bushes ill-suited to the different levels of water present in different parts of the landscape. So, the vegetation does not properly function and the water sits in puddles instead of absorbing.

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum suggests the committee create standards for the best plant communities for different wetness areas. Chair Glovier mentions that the Watershed recently hired two storm water people who will talk to the Shopping Center about redoing their rain gardens as a demonstration. Chair Glovier thinks the committee will have a lot of work already with invasive plant species marketing in spring, so she suggests the committee work on storm water education in the fall, especially given that ordinance will also take effect in the fall.

d. Invasive Species Community Education

i. ANJEC grant submitted

Chair Glovier reports that she submitted the ANJEC grant. She should hear back from them soon if they received it or not.

ii. May 22nd Princeton Library Program

Chair Glovier scheduled an invasive species event at the library for May 22, 7:00 to 8:30. The committee, Friends of Princeton Open Space, and D&R Greenway will jointly sponsor the event. Mr. Van Clef who completed the natural resource assessment will speak at it.

e. Sustainability Element of the Master Plan Update

Mr. Tech-Czarny reports that Ms. Ulmann told him that the Planning Board cannot hear the element this year, so members will have a year to prepare the element. He requests volunteers for each part of the element.

Chair Glovier reports that she continues to look for possible grants. Mr. Tech-Czarny suggests the committee seek a Sustainable Jersey grant after completing their current one.

f. Radon Project Update

Ms. Marcus-Levine does not think the radon project can happen this year.

g. Green Building Checklist Update

Ms. Sands reports that she and Vice Chair Fichtenbaum have almost completed the green building checklist. They have received all the information that builders can give to them. Some builders have not started their project, so have not responded. Ms. Sands and Vice Chair Fichtenbaum will now prepare the materials for Sustainable Jersey, Ms. Sands requests committee member input on what to analyze in the report. Members discuss green building checklists.

h. Development Application Review Committee

Members discuss the Development Review subcommittee's memo on the Institute for Advanced Studies' new project: the Institute wants to build a new, 25,000 square foot, multipurpose building on its existing gravel parking lot and then build a new paved parking lot next to the new building. They focus on the following aspects:

Pavement: members express concern with the proposed new parking lot having half porous, half impervious pavement, instead of only impervious pavement. The proposed design will lead to increased erosion and maintenance and decreased storm water management.

Soil: members express concern at the use of a manufactured treatment plant for storm water management instead of green infrastructure, for instance vegetative swales. According to the soil

testing in the geotechnical report, the area has Type D soils, very clayey and water resistant. Yet, with some soil decompaction (digging up of the soil) and amendment (addition of organic material to the soil), the soil could hold more water during storms and could hold green infrastructure.

Soil (continued): members express concern at the large amount of regrading to create the proposed roadway. Moving the soil for regrading will remove any vegetation present and will change the course of water. Without the vegetation, the builders will need to drain the water through a culvert, increasing the water's speed. Members question the necessity of the road.

Energy: members express concern with the two proposed approaches to powering the building: the plans include photovoltaics in a reflecting pool shaded by trees, reducing their efficiency, not over the parking lot, directly in the sun. A geothermal field exists in the report but not in the plans.

LEED Silver Status: the Institute says they plan to seek LEED Silver Status for the building. Yet, members did not feel the report showed they could obtain that status. Members also consider silver status a low bar. They prefer the Institute seek gold or platinum LEED status or even net zero energy (as a science thought leader).

Members discuss if they can send their memo to the applicant directly (not the lawyer or the civil engineer) given the many problems in the plan. Council Member Quinn will find out if that can happen.

Motion to adopt the memo

Result: Adopted [Unanimous]

Mover: Walker

Seconder: Tech-Czarny

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

Veblen House

Chair Glovier reports that Mr. Hiltner requested the committee's opinion on the Veblen House, in Herrontown Woods. Mr. Hiltner does not want the house demolished. Mr. Walker suggested demolition of the house could cause environmental problems. Members discuss the current status of the Veblen House.

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

i. Princeton Board of Health (DiFerdinando)

The board has no report.

ii. Sustainable Princeton (Symington)

Ms. Symington reports that Sustainable Princeton updated the ordinance for charging in Spring Street Garage. The electrician will begin the installation of the electric charging station in Spring Street Garage in a few weeks.

The Green Team and then all Department heads reviewed Sustainable Princeton's proposed green purchasing policy and behavioral policy. Ms. Symington expects Council to adopt the policies on May 8th.

Sustainable Princeton continues to work on the Climate Action Plan. They want to work with other groups on it.

iii. Princeton Planning Board (Tech-Cznary)

The board has no report.

iv. Princeton Recreation Department (Stentz)

The Department has no report.

VII. Announcements

Planning Board's Master Planning Meeting

Chair Glovier mentions that the Planning Board's master plan subcommittee will meet on May 15th.

Letter from Resident about the Institute's Advanced Commons Building

[?] describes the situation with the Institute project. She read a letter from Ms. Serieyssol:

<u>Letter to the Committee on Institute Housing Impact</u>
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[Insert Letter here]

Members discuss the letter. Chair Glovier suggests that the committee could respond to the Institute, given the importance of trees for storm water management. Vice Chair Fichtenbaum

suggests the committee communicate with Princeton Engineering on requirements for projects that require dewatering.

Committee Brochures

Mr. Tech-Czarny suggests committee brochures, for instance on the topic of construction waste.

VIII. Adjourn 9:43 p.m.

At about 9:43 PM, Chair Glovier called for adjournment to unanimous consent.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ben Strauss, Recording Secretary