



**Princeton Environmental Commission**

Monthly Meeting Minutes

**May 24, 2017**

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

Present

**Board Members:**

Sophie Glover, Chair  
Heidi Fichtenbaum, Vice  
Chair  
Molly Jones  
Tammy Sands  
Christine Symington,  
Sustainable Princeton  
Zenon Tech-Czarny  
Timothy Quinn  
Brian Walker  
Karen Zemble

**Staff:**

Ben Strauss, Board Secretary

**Guests:**

Katja Luxem, community  
member  
Charlotte Heller, Sustainable  
Princeton  
Michael Pisauro, Stony  
Brook-Millstone  
Watershed  
Theodore Block, Sustainable  
Princeton intern

Absent

**Board Members:**

George DiFerdinando, Board  
of Health Liaison  
Lisa Marcus-Levine  
Mia Sacks  
Steve Miller, Board of  
Health Liaison  
Haewon Park

At 7:33 pm, Chair Glover 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 Glover calls roll.

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

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

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

#### **a. April 26, 2017 Meeting**

Ms. Sands motions to approve the April meeting minutes. Mr. Tech-Czarny seconds. The Commission unanimously votes to approve the April meeting minutes.

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

Chair Fichtenbaum recognizes the members of the public. They do not wish to make a comment.

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

#### **a. Council Update (Quinn)**

Council Member Quinn reports that the storm water ordinance has been introduced by Council and will be considered by the Planning Board June 1st. Members can see the current version on the [website](#). Chair Glovier clarifies that the introduced ordinance did not include redevelopment (which the committee wants Council to adopt later). It also included a more limited maintenance requirement (only applying to major storm water systems), and minor development threshold (400 square feet of impervious surface not 250). Council will vote on the ordinance June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Quinn reports that Council approved the charges for EV charging stations at Spring Street Garage last night (May 23). Sustainable Princeton is planning a ribbon cutting for the new charging station is planned for June 13th.

#### **b. Ordinance Updates:**

##### **i. Stormwater management**

Chair Glovier updates members that the Planning Board will hear it Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and Council will hear it Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

##### **1. Stormwater management education planning**

Ms. Heller from Sustainable Princeton reports that Sustainable Princeton will incorporate information from the ordinance into its weekly email. For instance,

the email might define stormwater, explain its importance, and highlight Princeton stories-in residential, commercial and university properties-that show successful stormwater management mitigation strategies. Ms. Zemble asks if they can include costs in their success stories. Ms. Heller says yes.

Chair Glover suggests a stormwater management night at the library in the fall, especially given the success of the invasive species event at the library. Members like that plan.

ii. EVSE

Chair Glover describes the meeting including herself, Council Member Quinn, Ms. Symington, Planning Director Solow, and Municipal Attorney Cecil. Chair Glover considers the meeting productive. She does not feel anyone expressed opposition to creating the ordinance. They agreed to complete it by 2018. Council Member Quinn will follow up with Council about including it in their 2018 goals. Ms. Symington will report to Sustainable Jersey on Princeton's experience with the ordinance, given it fulfills a Sustainable Jersey action item.

Chair Glover also reports that, at that meeting, Planning Director suggested that PEC consider other ways to encourage the adoption of EVS, including considering the development of an ordinance requiring electric charging stations at developments of a certain size.

Mr. Tech-Czarny mentions that he works for Sustainable Jersey on electric vehicle charging. He will report back next month on Sustainable Jersey's electric vehicle charging plans.

c. Invasive Species Community Education

i. 2017 ANJEC grant

Chair Glover reports the committee received the grant. She then discusses the three parts of it:

1) The committee held an invasive species event at the library. 95 people attended it. Chair Glover does have a copy of all the presentations and can place them on the committee website.

2) The committee will hold three-hour education sessions where volunteers will learn about the top emerging invasives for the area. They will hold the first one on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and then two more in the fall. Princeton Open Space has a list of names from the library event and they will reach out to those people about interest in the education sessions.

3) Friends of Princeton Open Space will work on signage for the Greater Mountain Lakes open space area.

ii. May 22<sup>nd</sup> Princeton Library Program

Above.

iII. Woodfield Grant Close Out

Chair Glovier reports that she completed the paperwork to close out the 2016 Woodfield grant. The committee spent \$60 over the grant amount so needs to take that money out of their budget. Chair Glovier will check with Ms. Mercantini about it.

d. Sustainability Element of the Master Plan Update

Ms. Sands reports the subcommittee has a lot information and now needs to organize it. Mr. Tech-Carny has been drafting some goals for the plan. Mr. Tech-Carny says the subcommittee still needs volunteers. Chair Glovier wants to become more involved.

Chair Glovier asks about Sustainable Princeton's progress with the Climate Action Plan. She thinks the subcommittee and Sustainable Princeton should coordinate.

Ms. Jones describes Sustainable Princeton's current actions: they submitted for a \$100,000 grant to Robert Wood Johnson. In that grant, they said they wanted to begin work in the fall with assessing the 2009 Climate Sustainable plan and hiring a contractor to conduct a town greenhouse gas assessment. They plan for the oversight committee to begin its work January 1<sup>st</sup>.

e. Summer Intern

Chair Glovier reports that Ms. Klockenbrink will be the committee's first summer intern. Ms. Klockenbrink will conduct research on construction waste education and on building sustainable affordable housing.

Chair Glovier asks Council Member Quinn for the staff member responsible for construction waste. Council Member Quinn will find out and give Chair Glovier that person's name.

f. Green Building Checklist Update

Ms. Sands reported on the results of the Green Building Checklist Survey. Builders mostly responded positively. Ms. Sands suggests the committee focus on improving issues identified by them.

g. Development Application Review Committee

Chair Glovier mentions, with Council having passed the Green Purchasing Policy, the committee could request digital plans and accompanying reports. Council Member Quinn will talk to Planning Director Solow.

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

i. Princeton Board of Health (DiFerdinando)

No report.

ii. Sustainable Princeton (Symington)

Ms. Symington has been working with the electrician to finish up the installation of the charging station in Spring Street Garage (located at the first two spaces, entering from Spring Street). She expects it to be installed by Friday (May 26<sup>th</sup>) and to be operational next week. Sustainable Princeton will have a ribbon cutting event on Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Quinn mentions that Council heard concerns from the public about the charging station's cost to charge. Council felt they could reexamine the costs in six months. Ms. Symington estimated the lost revenue from the parking space dedicated to EV charging as a "very minor" amount.

Ms. Symington also reports that the Shopping Center charging stations have been installed. The electrician just needs to inspect them.

Ms. Symington will submit Sustainable Jersey certification by June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Symington introduces Mr. Block, Sustainable Princeton's summer intern. Mr. Block introduces himself. He is college student majoring in environmental law and policy. He will work on plastic bin education and tracking and other projects. Ms. Symington also mentions that they also have two other groups of interns, one, a Tiger Challenge Team, working on the psychology of Climate Action Plan implementation, and one looking on waste topics, particularly Princeton University's new biodigester.

iii. Princeton Planning Board (Tech-Czarny)

Mr. Tech-Czarny mentions that, at the Planning Board's last meeting, Princeton University [presented](#) their campus plan. Mr. Tech-Czarny describes it particularly its proposed bridge over Lake Carnegie. Members discuss it. They want to reach out to Princeton University to speak at one of their committee meetings.

iv. Princeton Recreation Department (Stentz)

Chair Glovier mentions an issue with the invasive plant project: last year, the town worked with the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team to hire two interns to treat emerging invasives. The town placed it into the budget. Yet, no action has been taken to find a contractor. Council Member Quinn has been looking into it.

## **VII. Announcements**

a. Boulder's Affordable Housing

Vice Chair Fichtenbaum discusses her research into Boulder, Colorado's affordable housing. She received a PowerPoint on their model. She will share it with committee members, Mayor Lempert and other key people.

## **VIII. Adjourn 9:42 p.m.**

At about 9:42 PM, Chair Glovier called for adjournment to unanimous consent.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ben Strauss, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: July 26, 2017