

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 27, 2017– 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. Glovier opened the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Present were: Zemble, Walker, Marcus-Levine, Glovier, Tech-Czarny, Fichtenbaum, Sands, Symington and Jones

Absent: DiFerdinando, Sacks, Park and Quinn

III. Acceptance of Agenda:

A motion was made and seconded and the agenda was accepted as published.

IV. Minutes:

a) August 16, 2017 – A motion was made and seconded and the Commission approved the minutes as written and amended.

b) July 26, 2017 – Zemble noted that it stated in the July minutes that she and her husband were being represented by an attorney for the West Drive discussion in the circulation element of the Master Plan. She noted that she part of a group called the Springdale Institute Neighborhood Assoc (SPINA) that is being represented by an attorney.

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission approve the minutes and written and amended.

V. Public Comment: Mr. Nielson said that last year NJ American Water Company did a study around the library are and asked if the PEC had a copy of the results of that survey. Glovier stated that the PEC does not. He said that the PEC should look into it because it concerns the “spring” and how it can be a major source of water for the town, should an emergency arise and there is a need for water. Glovier said she would look into it and try and find out more about the study. Mr. Nielson also asked about the climate action plan and that being corporate sponsored could influence the actions in the plans. Glovier noted that it is not corporate sponsored. Mr. Nielson also commented about invasive species, global warming and gave a written handout to the Commission members.

VI. Discussion/Decisions:

- a) Glovier noted Bloomberg Philanthropies is having a contest for innovative ideas and our Mayor is interested in this for food waste. This is something that needed to be packaged up and communicated. She said the deadline for this is October 20, 2017. Symington noted that 40 percent of food that has been brought into homes is wasted and ends up in the trash. Glovier noted that Princeton University will be installing a food digester for its food waste. Fichtenbaum noted that the restaurants are very interested in food waste and perhaps the PEC could look at ways to expand the program to include restaurants. Symington said that SP would like to find out many digesters would be needed and then where they may be located in the town in order for the town to have control over its own food waste. Tech-Czarny suggested utilizing the Convenience Center up on River Road because they have the eco-system for waste and energy.
- b) “ChargEVC” – Glovier noted this is a group that ANJEC highly recommends and the membership is \$100.00. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to join ChargEVC.
- c) Sustainable Princeton Climate Action Plan – Jones stated that she wanted to walk to the PEC through the plan and what hurdles there are here in Princeton. She discussed the plan stating that if the summers continue to be very warm, Princeton will be like San Antonio, Texas in the future. She said SP is in the beginning stages of the climate action plan and they are trying to align everyone to chip away at emissions. She said SP wants to get a handle on what the town's true emissions are as they move forward with this plan. Symington said by that, they are talking about all greenhouse gases. She said the plan will have specific focus areas and she noted that she wants to make sure that everyone is working together on this plan. Jones stated that this plan is evolving from a Council priority – she noted that Jeff Grosser the Asst Administrator/Health Officer will work on this plan with Sustainable Princeton on behalf of the municipality. She said they are putting a lot of energy into civic engagement to ensure people are aware of the goals and support them. Symington noted that West Windsor has drafted a climate action plan as well as Jersey City, Newark and Woodbridge. Jones said she spoke with the Princeton Merchants Assoc and Affordable Housing and they will be looking for input from everyone. She said there will be extensive community engagement, they will be working with non-profits and that they will have an extensive marketing and promotion campaign. Symington noted that the goal is to have a living, breathing document that is constantly evolving. Glovier stated that she is worried that NJ is not on track to meet its goals and wants to make sure that there is always funding for this. Fichtenbaum said she is hoping the next governor is friendlier to these efforts. She suggested linking this plan to the Master Plan. Tech-Czarny said that the purpose of this plan is to focus on mitigation and then adaptation; he said it's very similar to the sustainability plans. Jones notes that there will be task forces and advisory boards associated with this plan – communication will be a key factor. Fichtenbaum stated that it should not be all the same voices with this plan; it's important to have a broad stakeholder dynamic.

- d) **Construction Waste Brochure:** Glovier noted that the PEC had a great intern over the summer. Fichtenbaum stated that as a result the PEC has a brochure on waste management. She said the brochure has a “do you know” area; “discuss the ordinance and how to comply” area; “why there is an ordinance” area; “management plan and what it consists of” area; and management report and what it consists of” area. She said it would be helpful to have this brochure online. She explained why it’s necessary that the waste doesn’t go to the landfill. She said she would like to share this brochure with the Mayor and Council to obtain their input on it and then let them direct the PEC as to the next steps.
- e) **Storm water:** Glovier said there will be an educational event at the Library on October 18th. She also suggested doing a brochure for storm water like the one that was done for construction waste. She also discussed the storm water recommendations from Katja Luxem suggesting that a survey be circulated to everyone.
- f) **Affordable Housing/Sustainable Design:** Glovier noted that Quinn invited Ed Trucelli to come to the October meeting to discuss this. Quinn also suggested that the PEC contact the developer of the senior housing project at the shopping center. Fichtenbaum said this could be a tremendous opportunity to change the course with regard to climate change and sustainability.
- g) **Anjec Invasive Species Training Sessions:** Glovier not that these sessions will be help on 10/15/17 and 10/21/17.
- h) **Planning Board Letter/Rogers Refuge/West Drive:** Glovier noted that she thinks the PEC should weigh in on this issue. She said she sent a draft letter around to everyone to review. Fichtenbaum commented that she thinks it’s really important that the PEC look at these issues as they arise; whether it comes from a resident or other way. She said it’s important that the PEC do research and then give Council the PEC’s perspective from the environmental lens. Tech-Czarny said he agrees and said as far as the circulation element, they seem ambivalent to it. He said it’s important to look at prohibiting development in environmentally sensitive areas. Zemle suggested that the PEC create a document showing the environmentally sensitive areas and then present it in the Sustainable Element of the Master Plan. A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted to approve the letter. Zemle recused from voting on this.
- i) **Green in 17:** Glovier said the PEC should be thinking about this on a local level. She read the goals of “Green in 17” and then noted that they have ambitious goals.
- j) **Sustainable Princeton:** Symington noted that there will be an event at the library on October 12th from the Princeton Citizen Scientist Group about climate change and energy efficiency. She said SP gave a report to Council on data they have gathered on EV stations, and she noted when the next Great Ideas Event would be.

- VII. Adjourn:** A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Mercantini, Secretary

Date Approved: October 25, 2017