

# **Town of Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC)**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **December 4, 2019**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:10pm

*Committee members present:*

Corey Burnham-Howard (CBH), Claire Golding (GC), Phil Gott (PG), Phoebe Moore (PM)

**Public Comment:** None. (Charlie Cary in attendance.)

#### **Review & Approve Minutes from November 18, 2019 Meeting:**

- Members reviewed and discussed minutes.
  - o ACTION: CBH to send to CG attachment of PDF of Environmental Review of possible Solar Overlay Zoning (created by Mike Howard) discussed at Nov. 18 meeting to include with posted minutes
- November 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes
  - o Minutes approved as edited
  - Motion: CBH; 2d: PG; Vote: 2-0 (PM and CG abstain as were not present at Nov. 18 meeting)

#### **EAP Updates and Next Steps:**

- Members discussed timeline to complete. Given schedules, including holiday, PG and CBH suggested edits to be completed by end of January 2020. Members agreed.
- Edits needed include: Green Communities; PMLD; Wood Recovery; Recycling Center Statistics; Minor Typos
- ACTION: PG to complete his edits by 1/8; then PG to forward document to CBH for her to complete edits by 1/15. Then document to CG to finalize edits with Chris Samoiloff (CS).

#### **Green Communities Updates and Next Steps:**

- CBH relayed zoning possibilities—as per CBH’s discussions with Planning Board and Kelly Brown of the Green Communities Division—regarding meeting Criterion 1 for Green Communities application
- Members discussed Green Communities presentation by Kelly Brown at 12/10/19 Selectboard Meeting.
  - o Action: CBH to issue Press Release for Town News regarding presentation
  - o Action: PG to coordinate filming presentation
  - o EAC members to attend
  - o Possible questions for Kelly Brown at presentation:
    - Frequently asked questions?
    - Typical first Green Community-funded projects?
    - Will Town need to match any funds?
  - o ACTION: members to consider questions to bring to presentation
- Members discussed the importance of getting information to Town voters regarding Stretch Code adoption (that will require a vote at Town Meeting), as needed to meet another Green Communities designation criterion.
  - o PM suggested asking Kelly Brown, Sherry Patch, and Rachel Catlow for information materials.

- Members discussed asking Kelly Brown and/or other area towns about frequently asked questions and obstacles encountered in seeking Green Community designation

#### **Municipal Vulnerability Planning (MVP) Program updates and next steps:**

- PG reported that that MVP grant application has been submitted by the Town
- PG explained that the first grant would fund MV planning regarding how climate change might affect Princeton and what is needed to address vulnerabilities. He noted that Sunderland got \$30,000 for planning. He explained that thereafter grant applications can be made to fund specific projects. PG noted that priority funding is given to nature-based projects
- PG suggested MVP Press Release if grant awarded.
- PG discussed climate change data and climate change-related effects to the area by 2050.

#### **Communications Topics and Schedules:**

- Members discussed that communications to public regarding topics (such as Stretch Code) be bite sized and offered with repetition.
- CG and PM offered ideas regarding the human element and a narrative of the volunteers on EAC.
- CG offered that Princeton may respond best to dignified and carefully considered presentations.
- ACTION: CG to draft blurb on Stretch Code; PG to draft blurb on MVP. Members discussed that Water Testing communication might be best soon given Town well contamination issues.
  - Related to water testing- CBH suggested that EAC possibly host MassDEP Bureau of Water Resources to discuss well testing.
- EAC website- CS had offered information regarding costs for domain name. EAC members agreed to support ad-free website by donating funds for year subscription to domain name.
- At last meeting, members had discussed new email for website so that use of official email does not have more than 2 members accessing it and raising possible open meeting law issues.
  - ACTION: Ask Sherry Patch her thoughts on separate email from official EAC email solely for website management.

#### **Agenda Items for Next Meeting (December 10, 2019)**

- Public Forum on EAP

#### **Agenda Items for Next Meeting (December 16, 2019)**

- Public Comment
- Review and Approve Minutes of December 4, 2019
- EAP updates/ next steps
- Green Communities updates and next steps
- Municipal Vulnerability Planning Program updates and next steps
- Communications – topics and schedule
- Agenda items for Next Meeting

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:58 p.m.

Motion: PG; 2d: CBH; Vote: 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Burnham-Howard