

Town of Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm

Committee members present:

Corey Burnham-Howard (CBH), Claire Golding (GC), Phil Gott (PG), Chris Samoiloff (CS)

Committee members absent:

Phoebe Moore (PM)

Public Comment: No members of the public were present. CG received a letter from Bob Higgins Steel advocating for Massachusetts legislation: H 2810 the “Benson Bill/Act to Promote Green Infrastructure and Reduce Carbon Emissions”. The letter asked the EAC to urge our Selectboard to publicly support the bill.

ACTION: CBH to research bill and summarize for EAC

Review & Approve Minutes from January 8, 2020 Meeting:

- Members reviewed and discussed minutes, including suggested amendments for minor grammatical correction.
 - o MOTION TO approve minutes as amended.
- Motion: CG; 2d: PG; Vote: 4-0

Environmental Action Plan (EAP) Updates and Next Steps:

- CS discussed progress in finalizing the EAP. She has assigned fixes/edits to EAC members.
- ACTION: EAC members to complete assigned fixes/edits.
ACTION: PG and CG to complete revised Summary Chart
ACTION: CS and CG to complete edits and finalize EAP

Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD) Update:

- PG provided update to EAC members.
 - o PG/EAC did not attend most recent PMLD public meeting. PG understands that PMLD is in contract renegotiations with Nextera to facilitate buying our own wind power. PG understands that PMLD has voted not to adjust PMLD customer rates at this time.

Green Communities Updates and Next Steps:

- CBH provided update.
 - o Following the meeting between CBH and CG and Town Administrator, Sherry Patch (SP), CBH sent to SP a memo detailing next steps and activities thus far in Green Community Designation Grant application. EAC will wait for SP to advise of grant of District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) funds—which will allow for commencement of work with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), as well as kickoff meeting with Kelly Brown of Green Communities Division.
 - o CBH is coordinating with Planning Board (PB) to get final determination from PB on whether current zoning bylaws meet Green Communities zoning criteria. PB Chair, John Mirick has offered to draft memo with determination. CBH sent detailed email to John

Mirick outlining the information/documentation related to zoning that must be provided with Town's Green Communities designation application. She also inquired with Mirick about whether she should attend PB's next meeting. CBH is awaiting response from Mirick.

- CBH drafted a "Stretch Energy Code" information summary for possible distribution via Town News—informing residents on need to adopt Stretch Code at Town Meeting in order to achieve Green Communities designation criteria. EAC members reviewed summary, and generally approved it.
 - ACTION: CBH to finalize Stretch Energy Code summary and send to SP for review and approval—and ask SP to send to Kelly Brown for her review for accuracy as well.
- CBH emailed Town of Rutland Town Administrator to receive contact person and update on their efforts to include their elementary and middle schools in the Green Communities-required Energy Reduction Plan via authorization from the Wachusett Regional School District (WRSD) Superintendent and/or School Committee. CBH is awaiting response.

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

- PG provided update.
 - PG mentioned related webinar that may be of interest.
 - Members discussed drafting of press release if and when MVP grant to Town is announced
 - ACTION: PG to attend kickoff meeting with CMRPC on January 29.

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)/Single-Hauler

- CG provided update.
 - EAC members noted discussions on the waste management issue on NextDoor Princeton forum.
 - ACTION: CG to meet with SP, Terry Longtine (Princeton Board of Health), and Irene Congdon, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) Central Massachusetts Municipal Assistance Coordinator
 - ACTION: CG to present on PAYT at Town Buzz on 3/5/20.

Communications

- CS provided updates.
 - CS spoke to Ginger Toll (Town Clerk) regarding EAC updating Town EAC webpage and providing accompanying "blog." CS reported that Ginger suggested EAC could send her information to add to the "bulletin," and that Ginger suggested that any blog proposal goes to Selectboard.
 - EAC members agree to pursue information sharing via Town News 1x/month.
 - EAC members discuss EAC creation of specific EAC communications email for CS to have ease and organization in leading EAC communications (Note: "EAC communications" is related to media and info sharing, while EAC official communication is still via CG as chair at existing EAC Gmail account.)
 - MOTION for EAC communications to be sent out on "EACCommunicationsgmail.com" or "other similar" to be determined by CS.
 - MOTION: PG; 2d: CG; Vote: 4-0.
 - CS spoke to Aimee Kindorf about EAC contributions to Senior Center Newsletter. Kindorf was enthusiastic. Deadlines for inclusion in newsletter are 10th of each month.

- ACTION: CS to draft/finalize “Introduction to EAC” for Newsletter. EAC members to provide CS with their “expertise” and “interests” for this introduction.
- ACTION: CBH to draft Stretch Code summary for newsletter.

Annual Report

- CG completed EAC’s Annual Report for Calendar Year 2019, and will send to Marie Auger by 1/23 deadline.

Budget

- CG inquired with SP regarding other committee budgets, and suggested figure. SP suggested \$1,000.
- CBH obtained pricing information for printing/binding of EAP with 12 copies at over \$800 (via Staples).
- MOTION for CG to propose \$1,000 EAC annual budget to SP.
MOTION: PG; 2d: CBH; Vote: 4-0.

Other/New Business

- Members discussed upcoming Town Information Session on PFAS. Multiple EAC members plan to attend. EAC members discussed and determined it is not necessary to post an EAC meeting if quorum of EAC members attend PFAS meeting because EAC members will be attending solely as citizens and not as representatives of EAC.
- Members discussed Senior Center Meeting Space rules and agreed to comply with them.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting (February 5, 2020)

- Public Comment
- Review and Approve Minutes of January 22, 2020
- PMLD updates
- EAP updates/ next steps
- Green Communities Designation Application updates and next steps
- MVP Program updates and next steps
- PAYT updates and next steps
- Communications updates and next steps
- Agenda items for Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Motion: CBH; 2d: CG; Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Burnham-Howard