

Town of Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm

Committee members present:

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

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Review & Approve Minutes from January 22, 2020 Meeting:

- Members reviewed and discussed minutes, including suggested amendments for minor grammatical correction.
 - o **MOTION** to approve minutes as amended with minor edits.
Motion: CG; 2d: PG; Vote: 4-0 (PM abstained.)

Environmental Action Plan (EAP) Updates and Next Steps:

- Final version of the EAP has been completed!
 - o **MOTION** to issue a press release announcing the final version of the EAP in Town News.
Motion: PM; 2d: CG; Vote: 5-0
- **ACTION:**CS to draft and send press release announcing the final version of the EAP to Town Clerk, Ginger Toll to post to Town News
- **ACTION:** CBH to ask Mike Howard to print 12 copies of the final EAP for distribution to include: EAC members; Selectboard members; Town Administrator; copies to be housed at Town Hall and Library

EAC Budget:

- CG submitted to Town Administrator, Sherry Patch, a budget request for EAC of \$1,000 for costs associated with printing final copies of the EAP, informational materials for residents and businesses regarding Annual Town Meeting Warrant articles and environmental issues relevant to Princeton, and supplies for Town environmental events such as Earth Day event.

Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD) Update:

- PG had no updates as PMLD has not met since the EAC's last meeting.
- **ACTION:** PG to attend next PMLD public meeting.

Green Communities Updates and Next Steps:

- CBH provided update.
 - o EAC awaits news from Town Administrator, Sherry Patch (SP) regarding 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 has coordinated 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.

ACTION: CBH to follow-up with John Mirick to obtain memo outlining the information/documentation related to zoning that must be provided with Town's Green Communities designation application.

- 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. CBH provided revised version of information summary to EAC members for their review.

ACTION: EAC members to provide to CBH any comments and suggested edits on Stretch Energy Code information summary by February 14.

ACTION: CBH to finalize Stretch Energy Code summary and send in early March to SP for final review, and then to Ginger Toll for publication in Town News

ACTION: CBH to draft Town Meeting Warrant Article, Motion, and General Bylaws for proposed adoption of the Stretch Energy Code. CBH to send those documents to SP.

- CBH has been trying to communicate with Town of Rutland regarding 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.
- **ACTION:** CBH and CG to schedule meeting with SP to review status of Green Community designation application action items

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

- PG provided update. (See attached memo drafted by PG.)
- **ACTION:** EAC members to provide to PG by 2/17 suggested names of invitees for Community Resilience Building Workshop

Trash Hauling Updates

- CG provided update.
 - CG met with SP, Terri Longtine (Princeton Board of Health), and Irene Congdon, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) Central Massachusetts Municipal Assistance Coordinator
 - Irene focused on activities of the Towns of Dunstable and Hudson that recently moved toward SMART programs (Save Money And Reduce Trash)
 - There are a variety of ways to be "SMART," with more grant money for less trash. Generally, individual or town purchases trash containers, town pays hauler, and individuals pay town.
 - SMART program allows residents to still have a choice on whether to sign-up and join Town-offered hauler through SMART Program, or to remain with current haulers. (EAC members noted that this leaves the issue of multiple haulers on the road, and the related environmental and structural effects.)
 - EAC members discussed how Town contract with Wheelabrator might impact adoption of SMART program.
 - It is expected that there will be a six-month study committee comprising Selectboard, Board of Health, Advisory Committee, Environmental Action Committee, and Road Advisory Committee—which will evaluate Town needs/wants on trash/recycling. This will include a survey and comments, and recommendations.
 - Before any implementation of SMART could commence, Board of Health would have to adopt regulations that align with the SMART program. There would also

need to be a Request For Proposals to trash haulers, with responses considered in decision on any Town action.

- CG drafted a “Task List” of action items to pursue in consideration of trash hauling programs for Town. (See attachment.)
- CG will be hosting 3/5 Town Buzz related to trash hauling. EAC members discussed proposed format of that Town Buzz. PG suggested inviting Helen Townsend from the Wachusett Recycling Center to participate.
 - **ACTION:** CG to present on SMART at Town Buzz on 3/5/20.

[PM left meeting at 8:17pm.]

Communications

- CS provided updates.
 - CS completed a draft “article” for Senior Center Newsletter providing an “Introduction to the EAC”.
 - **ACTION:** CG to edit to shorten CS’s draft article (for submission by 2/10).
 - CS proposes an email for her use as communications liaison:
princetoneachcommunications@gmail.com. EAC members agree on email name and use.
 - **ACTION:** CS to create the email address and share the password with CG.
 - CS inquired with Town Clerk, Ginger Toll, about updating EAC webpage on Town website herself. Ginger advised she will need to “train” CS after the Primary Election.
- **ACTION:** CBH to draft “article” (approx. 150 words) for Senior Center Newsletter on Stretch Energy Code adoption (for submission to Aimee Kindorff by 3/10).
- MVP Grant announcement is drafted by PG and CG and is to be sent out by SP via Town News and by CG to The Landmark.
- Stretch Energy Code information to be sent out from CBH to SP for Town News in March.

Open Space Workshop Attendance

- CG explained that the Open Space Committee is revising its Open Space and Recreation Plan, and is planning workshops for community input.
 - **ACTION:** CBH (representing EAC) to attend 2/24 Open Space Workshop.
 - **ACTION:** CG (representing EAC) to attend evening Open Space Workshop if rescheduled from 2/26.

Audubon Sheep and Wool Festival

- CG explained that Mass Audubon Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary’s Sheep and Wool Festival was scheduled for 4/18, and vendor participation is welcome.
 - **ACTION:** CG to host EAC information table at the event from 1-4p, with CBH and CS helping if they can.
 - **ACTION:** CBH to print handouts with Stretch Code Information for table at event.

Earth Day 50th Anniversary

- CG explained that 4/22 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. She proposes possible activity/event such as townwide cleanup in coordination with EAC, Open Space Committee, and Parks and Recreation Committee.
 - **ACTION:** CG to reach out to other committees regarding coordinated Earth Day event.

Other/New Business

- CS drafted personal notes summarizing Town's PFAS Information Meeting and shared that summary with EAC members.
- Following up on a letter CG received on behalf of EAC from Bob Higgins Steel, CBH briefly researched the "Bunson Bill/Act to Promote Green Infrastructure and Reduce Carbon Emissions"- H 2810. She reports that it looks like it is stuck in committee with no action to report.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting (March 4, 2020) (EAC will not have a quorum for 2/19 meeting)

- Public Comment
- Review and Approve Minutes of February 5, 2020
- PMLD updates
- EAP updates/ next steps
- Green Communities Designation Application updates and next steps
- MVP Program updates and next steps
- Trash Hauling updates and next steps
- Communications topics and schedule
- Open Space Workshop Updates
- Sheep & Wool Festival
- Earth Day
- Agenda items for Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

MOTION to adjourn.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Burnham-Howard