

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **April 1, 2020**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:08pm

*Committee members present (via WebEx):*

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

**Public Comment:** No Comment.

#### **Review & Approve Minutes from February 5, 2020 Meeting:**

- **MOTION** to approve minutes as written  
Motion: PG; 2d: CS; Vote: 5-0

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

- CBH provided update.
  - Town Attorney drafted a letter and sent it to Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Division Central Massachusetts Regional Coordinator Kelly Brown regarding Town compliance with Green Communities Criteria 1 and Criteria 2.
  - There will be a virtual Green Communities Kickoff meeting with invitees in the next week or two, as scheduled by availability poll from Sarah Adams of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC).  
**ACTION:** CBH will attend Green Communities Kickoff Meeting.  
**ACTION:** Up to two EAC members may also attend Kickoff Meeting, but if more than two plan to attend, EAC members are to advise CBH so she can post it as a public committee meeting.
  - 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 suggested that the information sheet be distributed on a timeline closer to when Town Meeting is ultimately held, and EAC members agreed.
  - Town Administrator Sherry Patch advised CBH that Town energy use data needed for Energy Use Reduction Plan was already being compiled by Town Accountant and Town Assessor  
**ACTION:** CBH to inquire with Sherry Patch as to base year from which Town energy use data is being collected.

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

- PG provided update.
  - There was a brief MVP Core Team meeting held in March via WebEx.
  - There is a MVP Core Team virtual meeting scheduled for April 2.
  - The Community Resilience Building Workshop originally scheduled for April 2 is postponed to possibly May 6.
  - The MVP action grant deadline is June 30, and so far that deadline has not been extended.

### **Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD) Update:**

- PG attended most recent PMLD virtual meeting. PG reported that Richard Chase is auditing power payments through 2017, and power usage, and wind energy generated and revenue for sale of wind energy—all to develop an energy and cost model for Princeton power to determine the best model and the impact of costs of power to Princeton residents.

### **Waste/Recycling Updates**

- CG provided update.
  - o Selectboard created a six-month study committee comprising members from Selectboard, Board of Health, Advisory Committee, Environmental Action Committee, and Road Advisory Committee—which will evaluate Town needs/wants on trash/recycling. (Advisory Committee member must be non-voting member per bylaws.)
  - o Board of Health sent survey to residents to evaluate their needs/wants on trash recycling.
  - o PM created Google Survey version of Board of Health's survey so that residents could complete it online. This was sent by CG to Terri Longtine.  
**ACTION:** CG to inquire with Terri Longtine as to status of bringing online the Google Survey

### **PFAS Water Testing**

- CS inquired with Selectboard member her proposal that EAC offer coordinated effort of discounted group PFAS testing to residents. Selectboard does not want EAC to lead such an effort.

### **Communications**

- CS provided updates.
  - o CS and CG confirmed that Mass Audubon Wachusett Meadow Sheep Fest—at which EAC intended to host information table—was cancelled.
  - o CS would like the EAC to be able to provide a regular newsletter to residents via Mail Chimp.  
**ACTION:** CS to ask Sherry Patch for her thoughts on that idea and how best to implement an EAC newsletter via Mail Chimp.
  - o CBH was to draft for April release a Stretch Energy Code Info Sheet for Town News, and a Green Communities Summary for the Senior Newsletter and Town News, but suggested that both now have a delayed release. EAC members agreed.  
**ACTION:** CS to reach out to Ginger Toll at some point regarding obtaining a tutorial to input info on EAC's Town webpage.  
**ACTION:** CS to draft information sheet on spring yard care for distribution.  
**ACTION:** CS to forward summary information sheets to The Landmark, Redemption Rock News, and Town News and NextDoor Princeton.  
**ACTION:** CS to look at EAC's Town webpage to see what minutes were last posted, and then inform CG as to those that remain un-posted. CG will then send any un-posted to CS for submittal to Town Clerk for posting.

### **Earth Day 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

- CG provided updates.
  - o CG is member of the committee organizing a town-wide cleanup of roads, trails, parks and playgrounds. The committee also includes Open Space Committee (OSC) members Rick Gardener and Karen Rossow, as well as Rick Rys, and Laurie Kraemer, and EAC's CBH. The cleanup is during the month of April and is, in part, in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of Earth Day. A celebration is planned for May 2.

- Approximately 98% of the Town's roads have been claimed by volunteers for cleanup, and over 50% of those have already been cleaned up.
- EAC and OSC Town webpages have link to updates on volunteer work.

**ACTION:** On 4/11, the EAC will do a social distanced-"group" cleanup of areas that do not yet have volunteers.

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting (April 15, 2020 at 7p via WebEx)**

- Public Comment
- Review and Approve Minutes of April 1, 2020
- Green Communities Designation Application updates and next steps
- MVP Program updates and next steps
- PMLD updates
- Waste and Recycling updates and next steps
- Communications
- Earth Day Town-wide Cleanup
- Agenda items for Next Meeting

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:04 p.m.

**MOTION** to adjourn.

Motion: CBH; 2d: CS; Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Burnham-Howard