

Town of Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:11pm

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. (For a short time, EAC meeting was joined by member of the public Roger Brooks.)

Review & Approve Minutes from April 1, 2020 Meeting:

- **MOTION** to approve minutes with minor grammatical edit
Motion: PM; 2d: CS; Vote: 5-0

Quick Status: Green Communities Designation Application

- CBH provided update.
 - There was a virtual Green Communities Kickoff meeting led by Sarah Adams of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), and attended by Kelly Brown of the Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Division Central Massachusetts Regional Coordinator, as well as various Town officials and department and committee heads. Meeting outlined the 5 criteria the Town must meet to achieve Green Communities designation, and highlighted the efforts needed to do an energy audit of municipal buildings and to bring Stretch Energy Code bylaw to the Annual Town Meeting. It also addressed questions about WRSD approval/cooperation needed if Thomas Prince School is included in the Town's Energy Reduction Plan.
 - Wayne Adams, Advisory Committee Chair reached out to CBH suggesting importance of informing--in advance of Town meeting--Town residents about the Stretch Energy Code and its benefits and application—so that they are well-informed prior to Town Meeting vote on whether to adopt the Stretch Energy Code
 - EAC members discussed whether to get that information out now or wait until closer to the rescheduled Annual Town Meeting. EAC members agreed to get information out soon, with PG suggesting it should be based on a plan of how and what to communicate and to get it out over time.
 - **ACTION:** CBH will finalize draft information sheets for Town News distribution regarding Green Community designation and regarding Stretch Energy Code.
 - **ACTION:** CBH will attend Town Buzz on Warrant Articles to help answer questions on Stretch Energy Code Warrant Article.
 - **ACTION:** CBH will attend Advisory Committee hearing on Warrant Articles to help answer questions on Stretch Energy Code.
 - **ACTION:** CBH will follow-up with Sherry Patch and Selectboard about date at which to host Department of Energy Resources spokesperson information session on Stretch Energy Code, as well as ensuring Kelly Brown might attend our Annual Town Meeting to help field questions on the Stretch Energy Code.

- EAC members discussed obtaining Building Inspector support in Town's effort to adopt the Stretch Energy Code, wondering if he'd be available to attend Town information sessions on the Stretch Energy Code or would at least provide statement in support of Stretch Energy Code

- **ACTION:** CBH to follow-up with Sherry Patch regarding seeking support from Building Inspector for Stretch Energy Code adoption.

ACTION: CBH will continue to communicate and coordinate with Sherry Patch to ensure Green Community steps/actions are made timely to meet designation application.

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

- PG provided update.
 - There was a brief MVP Core Team virtual meeting on April 2.
 - There is a deadline of 6/30/2020 for MVP Action Grant deadline, and so far there is no information on any extension of that deadline due to COVID-19.
 - The Community Resilience Building Workshop (which will help shape Princeton's MVP Plan and Action Grant proposal) originally scheduled for April 2 is postponed, and likely will take place virtually over 4 days: 4/18, 4/30, 5/5, and 5/7.
 - Chief Bennett has made great suggestions as to procedures and plans on how to run that workshop.
 - Invitees to the workshop will include Town departments and small businesses and other interested parties
 - EAC members may still be asked to serve in some role as facilitators or otherwise at workshop.
 - PG recommends that EAC have visibility at workshop.

Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD) Update:

- PG attended most recent PMLD virtual meeting on 4/8.
 - PG noted that power suppliers are asking PMLD if it needs extra power because industrial users are shutdown due to COVID-19 and there is an excess of power generated.
 - Wind Energy discussions were delayed due to COVID-19. PG's supposition was that these discussions were with regard to possible Nextera/PMLD negotiations on how contract might be revised to allow PMLD to purchase the wind energy produced by PMLD.
 - Brian Allen mentioned the municipal building energy audits needed for Green Community Energy Reduction Plan (ERP).
 - CBH noted to EAC members that there are two options for audits: through HELPS program or through Municipal Energy Technical Assistance, but that the latter would not have funding available until late summer, which would leave a short timeline on which to then create the ERP. As such, Brian Allen was asked, and offered, to look into cost and timeline for HELPS energy audits of municipal buildings.
 - PG reported that Brian Allen noted that he does not think ratepayers should be asked to help fund HELPS audits of municipal buildings. Brian Allen will research associated costs and who might be asked to pay for them (PMLD or Town).

Waste/Recycling Updates

- CG provided update.

- CG had asked Terri Longtine (TL) of the Board of Health (BOH) the status/progress of the new Waste/Recycling Study Committee. TL responded that she will consider convening the Committee in May.
- CG suggested to TL that the EAC might help in tabulating waste survey results, and TL concurred.
 - **ACTION:** CG to continue entering waste survey result data
- CBH asked if the online version of the Waste Survey created by PM was yet provided on the BOH's website. It does not yet seem to have been made available.

Communications

- CS provided updates.
 - CS inquired with Karen Cruise and Sherry Patch about EAC providing a regular newsletter to residents via Mail Chimp. Selectboard discussed the matter and decided that committees could be provided with log-in information to update their own pages on the Town website. Karen Cruise suggested to CS that from the webpage, EAC could link to an EAC document/newsletter. CS suggested that interested parties could subscribe to EAC Newsletter. CBH expressed that she'd like to see the same information shared periodically via Town News and local media to ensure many people see the information. With regard to updates to the EAC's Town Webpage, EAC members discussed the need to ensure transparency and compliance with Open Meeting Laws and decided that EAC members would discuss at each EAC meeting what updates/information should be uploaded to EAC's Town Webpage.
 - **ACTION:** CS to update/change cover page on EAC's Town webpage to include blurbs on EAC's current four primary initiatives: Green Communities, MVP, Waste/Recycling, and Communications
 - **ACTION:** CG, CBH, PG, and CS to submit to CS "blurbs" on priority action updates by 5/4/2020—to be used by CS in drafting information for EAC Town Webpage. CG suggested CS might share example of what she might like for appearance of "blurbs."
 - CG suggested blurbs be updated 2 times per month (after EAC meetings) and that future EAC meetings now include agenda item of "Revisions to Webpage" for discussion.
 - CS and CG coordinated to ensure Town Clerk had all meeting minutes to-date.
 - **ACTION:** CS will ensure Town Clerk has updated all meeting minutes on EAC page.
 - CS contacted Aimee Kindorff about including information sheet on spring yard care for distribution in next Senior Newsletter. Aimee will include if there is a newsletter this month. EAC members discussed information sharing in other resources as well, and agreed that CS should also submit communications to Redemption Rock News and to Town News.
 - **ACTION:** CS to submit "spring yard care" information sheet to Senior Newsletter, Town News, and Redemption Rock News.

Earth Day 50th Anniversary

- CG provided updates.
 - CG and CBH are members of the committee organizing a town-wide cleanup of roads, trails, parks and playgrounds. The committee also includes Open Space Committee (OSC) members Rick Gardner and Karen Rossow, as well as Rick Rys, and Laurie Kraemer. The cleanup is during the month of April and is, in part, in honor of the 50th

anniversary of Earth Day.

- 100% of the Town's roads have been claimed by volunteers for cleanup, and over 70% of those have already been cleaned up.
- EAC has been asked to help with a stretch of Route 31 from the Common toward Holden. EAC members agreed to do the cleanup of that stretch on 4/19/2020 at 9a.

ACTION: On 4/19, the EAC will do a social distanced-"group" cleanup of a section of Route 31 starting at the Town Common and working to #83.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting (May 6, 2020 at 7p via WebEx or Zoom)

- Public Comment
- Review and Approve Minutes of April 15, 2020
- Quick Status: Green Communities Designation Application
- Quick Status: MVP Program
- Quick Status: PMLD
- Quick Status: Waste and Recycling
- Quick Status: Communications
- Quick Status: Earth Day Town-wide Cleanup
- Revisions to EAC Town Webpage
- Agenda items for Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

MOTION to adjourn.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Burnham-Howard