

Town of Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm

Committee members present (via WebEx):

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

Public Comment: Helga Lyons as Advisory Committee Liaison in attendance.

Review & Approve Minutes from April 15, 2020 Meeting:

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

Green Communities Designation Application

- CBH provided update.
 - Efforts are now focused on informing town residents about adoption of the Stretch Energy Code bylaw at the Annual Town Meeting (which is one criterion needed for Green Community designation).
 - CBH was interviewed by Redemption Rock News with regard to Green Community designation application. EAC members expected the latest issue to come out on 5/15/20.
 - CBH drafted information sheet for public. EAC members approve on dissemination of information sheet to public via Town News and NextDoor Princeton and Council on Aging Newsletter.
 - EAC members discussed best ways to advocate for adoption of Stretch Energy Code.
 - PG inquired whether Stretch Energy Code is simply a 3-year advance on the Building Code. **ACTION:** CBH will look into it.
 - CG suggested contacting local builders who build to the Stretch Energy Code for their perspective.
 - **ACTION:** CBH is working to schedule a Stretch Energy Code Information session with representatives from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER).
 - **ACTION:** CBH will advise Kelly Brown of DOER about new Town Meeting date, as Kelly Brown will attend if possible to answer questions on Stretch Energy Code adoption.
 - **ACTION:** CBH will attend Advisory Committee hearing on Warrant Articles to give brief presentation on Stretch Energy Code bylaw adoption.
 - **ACTION:** CBH will attend next Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD) meeting to inform them about Stretch Energy Code and see if Light Commissioners have interest in taking a position on its adoption in Town.
 - Another criterion needed for Green Community designation is creation of an Energy Reduction Plan (ERP), which requires energy audits of buildings. CBH reported that Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) funds can be applied for by Town and used by the Town for energy audits but are not expected to be released until late summer, which could impact Green Community application deadline. Brian Allen is

looking into alternative option of PMLD engaging with Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) to get cost and timeline estimate for energy audits of Town buildings.

- CBH noted that the Thomas Prince School (TPS) is one of the largest town-owned buildings and therefore may be good to include in the ERP's goal of meeting a 20% energy use reduction in 5 years. Including TPS would require Wachusett Regional School District (WRSD) approval of the ERP, and despite reaching out to the WRSD multiple times to engage on this issue, CBH has not received a response. Also, the Town could only take credit for the percentage of energy reduction equal to the percentage of Princeton resident students at TPS. CBH asked the TPS Principal for percentage of Princeton resident students at TPS and TPS Principal reported about 26%. **ACTION:** CBH will follow-up with Kelly Brown of DOER and Sarah Adams of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to see what best options are for including or not including TPS in ERP.

Municipal Vulnerability Planning (MVP) Program

- PG provided update.
 - Virtual Community Resilience Building Workshop (CRBW) sessions were scheduled for 5/12/20 and 5/14/20 in order to meet the 6/30/2020 MVP Action Grant deadline. PG reported that 27 out of 50 individuals invited to the CRBW responded.
 - On 5/4/2020, Governor Baker authorized a one-year extension on the MVP grant deadline. The CRBW has now been postponed so that they can hopefully be held in-person in September.
 - CBH noted that she had responded to CRBW invite but had not received notice that CRBW was postponed. CBH suggested email go out to all CRBW invitees in case others also had not heard.
 - PG agreed it would be helpful to send an email out to the meeting invitees.
 - EAC members discussed a Doodle Poll for preference for best availability to attend summer or fall rescheduling of CRBW.
 - CBH inquired whether funding is provided on a rolling application basis, or if the delay in grant application deadline means that Princeton will not be able to obtain MVP grant funds until 6/2021. **ACTION:** PG will look into this for an answer.

Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD)

- There were no PMLD meetings since EAC last met.
- **ACTION:** PG and CBH to attend next PMLD meeting.

Waste/Recycling

- CG provided update.
 - Terri Longtine of the Board of Health (BOH) postponed any action of the new Waste/Recycling Study Committee until May with date to be determined.
 - BOH received 450 responses to its waste and recycling survey. CG is manually entering the responses into a Google Survey created by PM so that quantitative and qualitative data can be more easily calculated.
 - **ACTION:** All EAC members to assist CG in entering survey response data into Google Survey.

Communications

- CS provided updates.
 - o CS sent article on Natural Lawn Care to Redemption Rock News for publication.
 - o CS is working on updating the EAC webpage. CS had asked CG, PG, and CBH to create blurbs about Waste/Recycling, MVP, and Green Community for posting to EAC page. CG, PG, and CBH completed their blurbs and submitted them to CS.
 - EAC members discussed how best to update the blurbs, and agreed they'd be updated as information changes with latest information posted at the News and Announcements section
 - o Ginger Toll (Town Clerk) is looking into the Civics Plus (website) as option for EAC to setup a Newsletter for subscribers.
 - o **ACTION:** CS to send email update regarding webpage changes for discussion at next meeting.

Earth Day/Earth Month

- CG provided updates.
 - o It was a great success with 100 participants, and lots of support, and 100% of the Town's roads, parks, and trails claimed and cleaned up by volunteers.

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

- Public Comment
- Review and Approve Minutes of May 6, 2020
- Green Communities Designation Application Updates
- MVP Program Updates
- PMLD Updates
- Waste and Recycling Updates
- Communications Updates
- Revisions to EAC Town Webpage
- Agenda items for Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

MOTION to adjourn.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Burnham-Howard