Town of Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC)
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:13pm

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 May 20, 2020 Meeting:
- o MOTION to approve with minor edits
  Motion: CG; 2d: CS; Vote: 4-0 (PM did not join meeting until after this vote.)

Review & Approve Minutes from May 27, 2020 Meeting:
- o CBH had suggested edits
- o MOTION to approve with discussed edits.
  Motion: CBH; 2d: PG; Vote: 5-0

Waste/Recycling
- CG asked for motion to move this agenda item to this place in the agenda.
  - o MOTION: CBH; 2d: CS; Vote: 5-0.
- PM discussed Board of Health's Waste Survey results.
  - o A majority of respondents indicated support of single hauler in Town.
  - o Strong finding: 97-98% of respondents would participate in Town single-hauler program if it saved the respondent money and if the hauler offered trash and recycling receptacles
  - o Survey is difficult to evaluate because it allows for many written responses, so PM will need to analyze qualitative data
- CG provided update that she has received no information from Terri Longtine of the Board of Health (BOH) on any action/first meeting of the new Waste/Recycling Study Committee.
  - ▪ **ACTION**: CG will ask Terri about initiating the first meeting of the committee.

Green Communities Designation Application
- CBH provided update.
  - o Efforts continue to be 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).
  - o CBH noted that Redemption Rock News is expected to publish article on Stretch Energy Code Bylaw adoption efforts in Princeton.
  - o EAC hosted Stretch Energy Code presentation on May 27 with guest speakers Kelly Brown of the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and Will D'Arrigo (a DOER consultant). The Town's Advisory Committee, Selectboard, and Town Administrator attended.
  - o CBH will present on the proposed Stretch Energy Code at Advisory Committee's Warrant Article Hearing
  - o CBH will present on the Stretch Energy Code Warrant Article at Town Meeting.
  - o CBH drafted Stretch Energy Code FAQ. EAC members discussed/commented on draft

FAQ.
- **ACTION**: EAC members to get any suggested edits on FAQ to CBH by end of day Friday, June 5.
- Helga Lyons inquired about the percent more efficient a home built to Stretch Energy Code is compared to a home built to current Base Energy Code.
  - **ACTION**: CBH to inquire with Kelly Brown of DOER for answer.
- CBH and PG attended Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD) meeting at which Light Commissioners discussed funding municipal facility energy audits needed for Green Community designation. Light Commissioners voted 2-1 to fund half of cost of municipal facility energy audits if the Stretch Energy Code is adopted at Town Meeting.
- EAC members discussed whether to support Town Meeting Warrant article proposed by Selectboard asking Town to fund half of the municipal building energy audits. CBH noted new information that Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Funds would now likely not be released until September, and that waiting for such funds to perform energy audits would likely mean Town would be unable to meet Green Community designation application deadline (now expected to be December 2020). Selectboard advocates funding municipal energy audits now as an investment in obtaining grant funds sooner. Light Commissioners voted to fund half of the energy audit cost.
  - MOTION: EAC supports town meeting warrant article seeking $12,500 as half of the cost of performing municipal energy audits needed for Green Community designation application.
    - MOTION: CG; 2d: PG; Vote: 5-0.

Municipal Vulnerability Planning (MVP) Program
- PG provided update.
  - No new information or updates. Everything has been postponed until September 2020, including the virtual Community Resilience Building Workshop (CRBW) sessions and next steps.

Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD)
- PG provided update.
  - PG and CBH attended. (See updates in Green Communities discussion.)
  - PG noted that much of PMLD meeting discussed Brian Allen leaving PMLD as of 7/3 and process/ideas for hiring replacement.

H.4650-An Act to Mitigate Arbovirus in the Commonwealth
- CS discussed her concerns with this bill which would allow for aerial mosquito spraying throughout the Commonwealth.
- CS explained that a revised version of the bill is H. 4751, which creates a Review Board
- CS asked EAC members to consider suggesting Selectboard take action/position on bill
- CBH suggested that Selectboard bandwidth may be limited until after Town Meeting, and members agreed to table further discussion on this item until EAC's July 1, 2020 meeting.
ACTION: CS to update EAC members on H. 4751 at July 1, 2020 EAC meeting.

Communications
- CS provided updates.
  - CS created sample EAC Newsletter: "The Green News". CS wants to publish this newsletter regularly and send it out to subscribers. EAC members discussed newsletter

and appreciated format and CS efforts.
- ▪ **ACTION:** EAC members to provide individual feedback/comments on newsletter to CS before next EAC meeting.

Other Business:
- CBH suggested changing meeting start times going forward to 6p. EAC members discussed.
  - o MOTION for EAC meetings to start at 6p going forward.
    - ▪ MOTION: CBH; 2d: PM; Vote: 5-0.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting (June 17, 2020 at 7p via WebEx)
- Public Comment
- Review and Approve Minutes of June 3, 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 9:13 p.m.
  MOTION to adjourn.
  Motion: CG; 2d: PG; Vote: 4-0. (PM left meeting prior to adjournment.)

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Burnham-Howard