

Town of Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm

Committee members present (via remote):

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

Committee members absent:

Phoebe Moore (PM) (on leave of absence from EAC)

Public Comment: Helga Lyons as Advisory Committee Liaison in attendance. Helga reported that she has been appointed to search committee for new PMLD Manager.

Review & Approve Minutes from June 17, 2020 Meeting:

- **MOTION** to approve as written
- Motion: CG; 2d: CS; Vote: 4-0

Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD)

- PG provided update.
 - Light Commissioners hired an interim manager for PMLD.
 - Light Commissioners hired a firm to find new PMLD manager candidates, and a search committee for new manager has been formed. Members of search committee include PG and Helga Lyons.
 - Potential candidates were to be identified within a week, with interviews in September.
 - PMLD in a letter to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) voiced support for Vineyard Wind Energy “to be approved with all good haste.”

Green Communities Designation Application

- CBH provided update.
 - Stretch Energy Code Bylaw passed at Town Meeting.
 - Funding for municipal building energy audit (part of Green Community-required Energy Reduction Plan) also passed at Town Meeting.
 - **ACTION:** CBH (or Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)) will need to draft Fuel Efficiency Policy for Selectboard approval.
 - Related: Town needs to conduct vehicle inventory.
 - PG inquired as to whether trailers with engine driven pumps will need to be included in this inventory. **ACTION:** CBH to inquire with Sherry Patch/CMRPC.

Municipal Vulnerability Planning (MVP) Program

- PG provided update.
 - No new information or updates. Everything had been postponed until September 2020, including the virtual Community Resilience Building Workshop (CRBW) sessions and next steps. PG expects update in late August.

Waste/Recycling

- CG provided update.
 - o There are no updates and have been no Waste and Recycling Committee meetings.
 - o Terms of Waste and Recycling Committee have expired. **ACTION:** CG will ask for committee/terms to be reinstated.
 - o **ACTION:** CG to reach out to Terri Longtine of the Board of Health (BOH) to get information as to when the BOH will be ready to move forward and support Waste and Recycling Committee initiatives.

Communications and EAC Webpage Updates

- CS provided updates.
 - o The first issue of the EAC Newsletter: “The Green News” went out. CS received some responses seeking access to Newsletter.
 - o CS shared proposed July issue of EAC’s “The Green News.” CG, CBH, and PG gave comments to CS on proposed newsletter. **ACTION:** CS to make some revisions and edits, and then “publish”.
 - o EAC members discussed ideas for content of next (August) newsletter. EAC members agreed that information on MVP might be timely since MVP work is set to re-start in September. **ACTION:** CS to pull info from Environmental Action Plan on MVP and incorporate into Newsletter, and PG will add paragraphs about MVP—with approximate deadline of 8/5.
 - o CS asked CBH to draft updates for webpage with regard to Green Communities/Stretch Energy Code. **ACTION:** All EAC members to look at webpages related to their assigned topics and send updates to CS.
- PG had analyzed “suggested reading” links on EAC webpage, and found some that don’t work. He shared details of that information.
- PG and CS discussed current and best location of “helpful” links on EAC webpage.
- **ACTION:** CS to check links with “helpful” information.
- Helga Lyons suggested Town webpage needs a better search button feature and better way to find information. **ACTION:** CS to look at this issue but thinks it will require Town Clerk action.

H.4650/H.4751-An Act to Mitigate Arbovirus in the Commonwealth

- CS provided updates.
 - CS has no further information.
 - EAC members discussed concerns with bill and possible EAC position on the issues raised by bill, including whether to present the concerns to the Selectboard for possible position statement/letter to legislators. EAC members decided not to act until better understanding of status and content of bill.
 - **ACTION:** CS to determine current state of bill and likely timeline, and update EAC at 8/5 meeting. CBH to look at new version of bill(s) and determine their status.

Other Business

-CBH raised topic of whether EAC should be taking annual vote on EAC chair/vice-chair positions, and EAC members discussed.

MOTION: CG to serve as Chair and CBH as Vice-Chair.

Motion: PG; 2d: CS; Vote: 4-0.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting (August 5, 2020 at 7p via online forum)

- Public Comment
- Review and Approve Minutes of July 15, 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 8:29 p.m.

MOTION to adjourn.

Motion: PG; 2d: CS; Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Burnham-Howard