

Town of Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm

Committee members present (via remote):

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

Public Comment: None. Helga Lyons (HL) present as liaison from Advisory Committee. Rick Rys (Light Commissioner) and Charlie Cary (EAC member applicant) also present.

Review & Approve Minutes from September 30, 2020 Meeting:

- CS gave suggested changes/edits; CG noted typos
 - o **MOTION** to accept as amended
Motion: PG; 2d: CS; Vote: 4-0 (PM abstained because did not attend 9/30/2020 meeting.)

Consider Charlie Cary (CC) application to be EAC Member

EAC members briefly discussed CC application.

- o **MOTION** to recommend Selectboard accept Charlie Cary application to be EAC Member
Motion: PG; 2d: CS; Vote: 5-0.
- o **ACTION:** CG to email Karen Cruise, Selectboard Chair, notifying Selectboard of EAC vote

Green Communities Designation Application

- CBH provided update.
 - o Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) fund grant awarded to Princeton will fund energy audit of Thomas Prince School (TPS).
 - o GDS Associates, Inc Audit Report of municipal buildings completed.
 - o Sarah Adams of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) hosted an Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) meeting with various stakeholders from Town departments/committees, PMLD, and GDS Associates. Sarah will draft ERP for review, and once finalized it will be presented for Selectboard approval.
 - o CBH sent Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy (FEVP) to Selectboard approval.
 - o CBH again explained that ERP and FEVP are last criteria Town needs to meet to apply for Green Community Designation. CBH explained that the goal is to complete Green Communities Designation application by end of October with applications now being accepted by DOER on rolling basis through December.
- Helga Lyons asked questions related to ERP and CBH answered. Questions included: (1) who would be coordinating efforts related to reduction of energy; CBH responded that 10% of Green Community grant funds could be designated to grant administration, which would include energy reduction efforts; and (2) would the Town be committing to all ERP identified energy reduction measures; CBH said the ERP was a good faith report of what the Town expected to do but that the Town was not obligated to do each identified energy reduction measure but was committed to reducing municipal energy by 20% over 5 years and if failed to do so would lose

Green Community designation status but would not have to return grant funds received.

Municipal Vulnerability Planning (MVP) Program

- PG provided update.
 - o Three virtual two-hour MVP workshops have been scheduled for 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5 from 1p to 3. They expect 26 participants divided into 3 or 4 groups. Will identify climate change related vulnerabilities including evaluate infrastructure, societal impacts environmental issues, and then vote on 8-10 critical projects for Princeton to increase resiliency to climate change.
 - o Following workshops, CMRPC will develop output, then Town will host information sessions, then the Town will file MVP Plan in April for qualifying grants.

Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD)

- PG provided update.
 - o PMLD had considered participating in Dominic Golding WPI engineering students' research projects, but has decided not to be involved until a new manager is hired and onboard.
 - Rick Rys noted that Light Commissioners supported WPI projects to the extent that they don't involve PMLD manager approval.
 - o New PMLD Manager is being hired.

Waste and Recycling

- CG provided update.
 - o The Waste and Recycling Committee (WRC) has met three times.
 - o CG assembled the qualitative data from the townwide recycling/waste survey and that will be available to the public on the WRC webpage.
 - o At this state, the WRC is gathering information on options; no decision is being made. Details to determine include size of carts, how to dispose of bulky items, etc. WRC hopes to engage residents as much as possible. Town goals include to lower costs, while Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection goals include decreasing the amount of trash.
 - o WRC is going to tour the Wachusett Recycling Center.
 - o WRC next meeting is 10/27 at 9:30a.

Communications Updates/EAC Webpage Updates

- CS provided updates.
 - o CS will coordinate link/redirect related info from EAC webpage to WRC webpage.
 - o CS made WRC updates on webpage.
 - o CS reported that October Newsletter was "published."
 - o CS created a "Green Living" page with a list of the newsletters (archive)
 - o **ACTION:**
 - PG to send MVP updates to CS
 - PG to write article on vehicles for next Newsletter.
 - CBH to update Green Community info.
 - CG to update WRC info.
 - All members give multi-sentence update on project-specific efforts to CS for COA Newsletter.
 - CS and CG will draft COA Newsletter.
 - o CS reported that Redemption Rock News is pulling information from Town News and

- put something in their paper about EAC Newsletter.
 - CC suggested marketing EAC more and would like to get more hard copies of EAP and perhaps EAC newsletters distributed to residents.
 - CS noted that the Princeton Public Library is offering Zoom presentations and wondered if EAC would be interested in presenting.
 - PG suggested MVP presentation
 - **ACTION:** CS will seek more info on library presentations.
- PG asked about “hit counter” to see how many visitors go to EAC webpage and what parts of it gets hits.
 - **ACTION:** CS will inquire with Susan Priest re: analytics for EAC webpage and Green News.

WPI Project Updates

- WPI Professor Dominic Golding has inquired whether EAC might suggest project ideas and/or sponsor projects for WPI Juniors working on their Interactive Qualifying Projects. Projects must include both social and technical components.
- Charlie Cary with EAC as “sponsor” will be working with selected students to explore the feasibility of using available wood as fuel.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Public Comment
- Review and Approve Minutes of October 21, 2020
- Green Communities Designation Application Updates
- MVP Updates
- PMLD Updates
- Waste and Recycling Updates
- Communications Updates
- EAC Town Webpage Updates
- WPI Project Updates
- Agenda items for Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

MOTION to adjourn.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Burnham-Howard