

# **Town of Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC)**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **August 19, 2019**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:12pm

*Committee members present:*

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

**Public Comment:** None.

#### **Review & Approve Minutes:**

- July 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes
  - o Minutes approved with minor grammatical edit
- Motion- CS; 2d- PG; Vote: 4-0

#### **Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD) Update**

- PG presented to EAC members information regarding recent actions/updates by/at PMLD. *See attached summary prepared by PG.*

#### **Facilities Steering Committee II (FSC II) Updates**

- None
- ACTION: CG to reach out to FSC II members to see when EAC input may be helpful

#### **Landfill Expansion Updates**

- None

#### **Selectboard (SB) Update**

- CG reached out to Karen Cruise (KC) regarding EAC presentation of Environmental Action Plan (EAP) to SB. SB has not yet set their fall schedule, but it looks like it may be 9/3/19 at 7p.
- ACTION: CG to contact KC to confirm 9/3 SB date and time, as well as agenda to include EAC presentation of EAP.

#### **Environmental Action Plan (EAP) Review and Presentation Plans**

- CG and PM have not yet edited presentation, but plan to do so
- Committee members discuss adding “Next Steps” section at end of EAP Presentation to SB and/or requesting at 9/3 SB presentation the following:
  - o SB comments on EAP draft
  - o SB permission to EAC to present EAP draft to public
  - o SB to charge EAC with implementation of the EAP—(with EAC request to take first action of seeking Green Communities designation for Town)
  - o SB to give notice and encouragement to other boards, committees, etc. to work in cooperation with EAC as EAC implements draft
- ACTION: CG to edit draft PowerPoint EAP presentation
- ACTION: CG to post EAC Agenda for 9/3 SB meeting in case quorum of EAC members attend
- EAC members also discuss ideas on how EAC might present EAP to public:
  - o Town News- with link to PDF of EAP, and request for structured feedback via email

- Public Forum
  - Local news press release
  - Presentation at Town Buzz at Senior Center
  - Hard copies of EAP to be available at: library, Town Hall, Senior Center
- ACTION: Corey to make 3 hard copies of EAP to eventually be placed at these locales

### **Town-wide Cleanup Day with Parks & Recreation and Open Space Committees**

CG discussed Town-wide Cleanup Day with Hollie Lucht of Town's Parks & Recreation Committee and Rick Gardner of Town's Open Space Committee. Cleanup Day would include efforts by EAC and other committees. CBH suggests April would be good time of year for this given Earth Day, weather, and lack of foliage. EAC members agree to table discussion on this until next meeting.

### **Use of Pesticides on Town Properties**

EAC members discuss fact that there have been a few discussions on NextDoor Princeton regarding pesticide use on Town-owned properties, including cemeteries and playing fields. SB Member Karen Cruise (KC) had reached out to EAC via email requesting guidance and information on this issue, including whether grants may be available. CBH responded to KC via email with reference to EAP, which includes: (1) recommendation for Town to adopt and implement a Landscaping Manual and Integrated Pest and Weed Management Policy for all Town-owned facilities and properties; and (2) information regarding grants available through UMass Lowell's Toxic Use Reduction Institute. CS also responded to KC via email.

ACTION: CS to follow-up with KC on this issue to see if EAC can provide any more information or assistance.

### **New Business**

CS was contacted by Dot Odgren who is a member of the Wachusett Garden Club. Odgren inquired as to whether EAC would be interested in joining conversations/presentations put on by the Garden Club- such as on topics like native plantings, wildlife, and landscape management. CBH suggests that EAC could be a presenter but may have different opinions/offerings from other presenters and so should not simply be a co-host of a presentation given by Garden Club. EAC members agree that such EAC participation would fit under EAP educational outreach efforts. EAC members agree to welcome Dot Odgren to future EAC meeting where she can provide more specifics on endeavor.

ACTION: CS to invite Dot Odgren to speak at EAC's 9/4/19 meeting.

### **Agenda Items for Next Meeting (September 4, 2019)**

- Public Comment
- Wachusett Garden Club representative to discuss educational outreach
- Review and Approve Minutes of August 19, 2019
- Facilities Steering Committee II Updates, if any
- PMLD Updates, if any
- EAP Next Steps
- Green Communities Next Steps
- Town-wide Cleanup Day
- Agenda Items for Next Meeting

**Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.**

Motion: CBH; 2d: CS Vote: 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Burnham-Howard