**Town of Princeton**

**Environmental Action Committee (EAC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 17, 2023**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:04 pm

*Committee members present in person:*

Phil Gott (PG), Gerry Pellegrini (GP), Claire Golding (CG), Corey Burnham Howard (CBH), Forrest Iwanik (FI)

*Committee members present remote*: Matt Charpentier (MC)

*Committee members not present*: None

*Student Committee members present:* None

*Advisory Committee liaison present*: None

Public present: Kaitlin Kohberger, Steve Jones

No public comment.

Chair (CBH) moved applicants for membership Kaitlin Kohberger and Steve Jones to the top of the agenda. Applicants and EAC members introduced themselves; EAC members described the work of the committee and answered questions. Steve Jones mentioned his experience in NH of finding ways to sell carbon credits in a heavily forested area to interested parties—is this something Princeton might explore?

**Old and New Business:**

* Minutes of December 13 were approved with slight amendments. CBH motion; CG second; unanimous.

**Updates** *(See Compiled Updates, distributed to members before the meeting, at end of this document)*

* **MVP:** Process is on hold, Sherry Patch is going to speak to Hilary King, MVP Central Region Coordinator, about ways to adapt the program to small-town needs and capabilities.
* **Green Communities**: Efforts under way to add the Thomas Prince School to the Town’s Energy Reduction Plan. It may require a School Committee vote or the Superintendent may be able to sign-off independently. CMRPC to get more information to the Superintendent who will also seek clarity from the WRSDSC.
* **Selectboard:** CBH reports that theSelectboard is updating its Chapter 61 process; EAC will review all materials and applications for this program from now on. Selectboard is hosting a Committee Chair breakfast on 2/27 at 8 am; CBH and PG to attend. There is a new Town Clerk, Alissa Horsung.
* **Public Safety Building Committee:** Not much happening; Selectboard may be bringing the issue to Town Meeting, but it is unclear when.
* **Master Plan Steering Committee**: Members discussed progress on MP chapters; agreed to wait until those chapters are complete and can be reviewed to determine need for a stand-alone EAC chapter to add to the MP.
* **Waste & Recycling Committee:** Survey responses have come in; members discussed ambiguity in survey causing confusion about actual cost of bags of trash brought to potential transfer station.
* **PMLD**:
* **Outreach campaign**: Sean McKeon to speak Thursday night 1/19; PG to introduce him. February Green News Brief to be on EVs and public transportation options (possibly); PG to write. PG agreed to present in person as well on these issues.
* **New meeting schedule**: Members agreed to change our regular meeting time to the second Monday of the month to accommodate members’ schedules. **Action Item**: CBH will notify Town Clerk.
* **New members:** Members recommended Kaitlin Kohberger and Steve Jones for appointment to the EAC by the Selectboard. CG motion, PG second, unanimous. Action Item: Advertise for student member.

Agenda for next meeting, Monday, 2/13/23:

* Public Comment Period
* Approval of minutes of 1/17/23
* Updates
* New business
* Agenda items for next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Golding

**Compiled Updates:**

**EAC Working Group Updates for Review and Discussion at EAC January Meeting:**

**Green Communities Initiative Update (CBH) (PG)**

CMRCP Representative Ian hosted a meeting with Princeton representatives and WRSD Superintendent and Facilities Manager and Kelly Brown from DOER. WRSD seemed enthusiastic to adopt ERP and allow for grant money to be spent on energy saving upgrades at TPS. Ian was to get information to WRSD prior to mid-January meetings. WRSD was unsure if Superintendent could adopt or would need School Committee approval—to be determined.

You may also recall that EAC recommend to the SelectBoard that the Thomas Prince School be added to the list of municipal buildings to be included in the Green Community energy savings program. Per EAC discussion at last meeting, CBH and PG drafted such a recommendation and on 11/30 submitted it to Sherry Patch to share with the Selectboard.

Sherry Patch was meeting this past week with two vendors regarding lighting upgrades at multiple Town facilities, and was hoping to receive quotes for that work. CBH and PG reiterated EAC recommendation/request for any outdoor lighting to be night sky friendly.

**Snow & Ice Policy (CBH)**

*No new updates.*

**Climate Resiliency Outreach Campaign (CBH)**

*(See Communications updates below.)*

**MVP (PG)**

Sherry Patch inquired with PG and CBH regarding possibly brainstorming MVP Grant applications due in a few weeks. PG and CBH acknowledged the value of the grant program and need for climate resiliency projects, but expressed EAC’s determination from last year that the MVP Grant program requirements were too cumbersome and time consuming to implement based solely on volunteer time and efforts and seem best geared toward communities with fully staffed positions to implement the grants and their requirements. Sherry agreed and plans to talk to MVP Regional Coordinator Hillary King regarding the need for a program geared specifically towards rural communities that do not have the resources that bigger cities and towns have.

**PFAS Information Sharing (FI)**

FI offered to help give the running “update” word document a makeover for greater visual appeal and easier consumption. Karen Cruise reached out to CBH and prefers not to have a CANVA “newsletter” like format, but CBH will make some other more general formatting suggestions.

**Communications/Newsletter/Website (CG)**

- January Green News Brief on Energy Efficient Homes (by PG and GP, with editing by CG) went out January 11 with the help of Chris Samoiloff. Corey posted the Briefs on social media.

- 1/19- Sean McKeon presenting on NextZero Rebate opportunities and Peak Shaving

- February 2023 topic is Transportation (with PG and CG); will need text soon

\*\*Note that Redemption Rock News does not publish again until March 2023.

- Still need to make website corrections

- CBH drafted and submitted EAC info for inclusion in Town Census mailing by deadline given by old Town Clerk, but the interim Town Clerk had not been aware of a deadline given to committees and had already completed the mailings by the given deadline so EAC’s submission could not be included.

- CBH drafted and submitted 2022 EAC Annual Report to Town Clerk by requested deadline.

- CBH drafted and submitted 2023 EAC budget request by requested deadline (same as last year $970)

**EAC Liaison Updates:**

**Public Safety Building Committee (PG)**

*No new updates.*

**Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC) update** **(CG)**

- MPSC met January 11 (after sending this update). The chair has resigned, so it is now a 3-person committee.

**Waste and Recycling Committee Update (CG)**

- Survey has gone out, and we are getting replies (but I can't tell what they are yet because our Survey Monkey subscription expired; should be reinstated this week, I hope!).

- Next WRC meeting will be Thursday, January 19 at 9 am.

**Princeton Solar Farm Working Group (CBH)**

- The group meets next on January 19 at 10am. The Group’s Interim Report to the Selectboard was delivered, and we may discuss feedback from Selectboard and next steps.

**Open Space Committee (GP)**

*No new updates.*

**PMLD (PG)**

*No new updates.*