

Town of Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

Committee members present:

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

Public Comment: None.

Review & Approve Minutes:

- August 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes
 - o Minutes approved as written.
- Motion: CG; 2d: CS; Vote: 4-0

Dot Odgren/Wachusett Garden Club Query

- Dot informs EAC of Wachusett Garden Club activities. She wants to reach out to other local organizations regarding environmental conservation. She notes that many garden clubs have a pledge regarding environmental conservation. Dot suggests “dovetailing” with the EAC regarding education in areas such as lawn care, integrated pest management, tick prevention, and ecosystem preservation as a means to avoid pesticides and fertilizers. Dot suggests possible coordination with EAC to inform EAC of Garden Club plans in case of overlap on topics of interest and possible co-involvement if interested. Garden Club generally meets the second Wednesday of each month.
- CG may consider attending upcoming Garden Club meeting to inform members regarding EAC efforts.
- EAC members appreciate Dot reaching out and attempts at coordination of education efforts. Members note goal of Environmental Action Plan (EAP) includes information outreach to town residents.

Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD) Update

- None

Facilities Steering Committee II (FSC II) Updates

- FSC II Committee no longer exists

Landfill Expansion Updates

- None

Selectboard (SB) Update

- EAC members congratulate CG on excellent presentation of draft EAP to SB on 9/3/19.
- Recap of SB response to draft EAP presentation:
 - o SB voted to accept EAP draft
 - o SB asked EAC to create list of several priorities of EAP action items to commence addressing, which EAC is to present to SB
 - o SB agreed to meet with Kelly Brown, Regional Coordinator of the Green Communities Division of Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER)

- EAC members discuss priorities list for EAP initial action items, and agree to the following:
 - o Green Communities (Gets Town Money)
 - o Liaison with Building Committee and provide information regarding suggested energy saving building construction/materials (Save Town Money)
 - o Explore Waste Hauling options (Save Town Money)
 - o Information and Outreach to town residents and other Town committee/departments (Learn Stuff)
 - EAC members discuss idea of monthly blurb in Town News and local paper (such as Redemption Rock News). CBH suggests assigning topic for each calendar month and assigning EAC member writer for each topic. CS offers to coordinate such efforts.
 - CS wonders if EAC should create a webpage on which to post information. Members agree this might be a good idea for future, and may need SB approval.
- **ACTION:**
 - o CG to contact Karen Cruise (KC) regarding preferred meeting date to include on SB agenda Kelly Brown presentation on DOER's Green Communities program
 - o CG to then contact Kelly Brown requesting appearance at SB meeting on designated date
 - o CBH to draft for SB list of priority EAP action items with explanation as to why item is a priority.

Environmental Action Plan (EAP) Next Steps

- Post draft EAP on EAC town webpage
- Get out press release (to post on Town News and then to share that on NextDoor Princeton) informing town residents of EAC's completion of EAP and to include: information regarding EAC initial charge to create EAP, link to completed draft EAP, notice that hard copies of draft EAP will be available for viewing at the Princeton Library, Town Hall, the Princeton Senior Center, and at the EAC table at MassAudubon's Hey Day on 9/14, inviting town residents to provide feedback on the draft EAP to the EAC's email, and notifying town residents that the EAC will host an upcoming public presentation/forum on the draft EAP.
- **ACTION:**
 - o CG to contact Interim Town Administrator, Rick White, (who had offered at 9/3/19 SB meeting to create link on town webpage to draft EAP) to get link to EAP on webpage
 - o CG to contact Town Clerk, Ginger Toll, to request post of draft EAP link on EAC's town webpage
 - o CG to then send link to CS so that CS can create a QR code for link
 - o CG to draft Press Release (with details noted above) and send to Town Clerk, Ginger Toll, for posting as Town News
 - o CG to contact Ginger Toll regarding use of Senior Center for EAC's Oct. 2 meeting—as date and place for public forum on EAP (to include date and location in Press Release, if available)
 - o CBH to make more hard copies of EAC and deliver to Princeton Library, Town Hall, and Princeton Senior Center, and for EAC's table at Hey Day.

Green Communities scheduling

- Recap that at SB's 9/3/19 meeting, SB agreed to meet with Kelly Brown, Regional Coordinator of the Green Communities division of DOER
- CBH notes important to get clarification from Kelly Brown as to whether data collected for Green Communities-required Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) must be full year's worth—in

which case Town application for Green Communities may not be achievable until 2021

- **ACTION:**
 - o CG to contact Karen Cruise (KC) regarding preferred meeting date to include on SB agenda Kelly Brown presentation on DOER's Green Communities program
 - o CG to then contact Kelly Brown requesting appearance at SB meeting on designated date

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

- EAC members agree to table this agenda item.

MassAudubon Wachusett Meadow's Hey Day on September 14

- Deb Cary, MassAudubon Director, contacted CG and CBH inquiring if EAC would like to host a table at Hey Day. CBH suggests EAC host table with hard copies of draft EAP available for viewing, provision of QR Code with link to EAP, and comment cards for feedback. EAC members agree to host such a table. Hey Day typically runs 11a-4p.
- **ACTION:**
 - o CG to respond to Deb Cary that EAC will host a table at Hey Day. CG to inquire whether EAC should bring a table or MassAudubon provides one.
 - o CS set-up EAC table at approx. 11a.
 - o Table host:
 - CS 11a-12p
 - CG 12p-2p and as needed
 - CBH 2p-4p
 - (ask Phil Gott (PG) if interested / available)
 - o CBH to make hard copies of EAP for viewing at Hey Day
 - o CBH to make/bring EAP sign/poster for table
 - o CS to bring printout of QR Code with link to EAP

Other Old Business

- CS followed up with KC regarding KC's request for information regarding funding sources for alternative pesticide use on town fields. KC needs no further information at this time.

New Business

- Advisory Committee member, Helga Lyons, has reached out to EAC with interest in being a liaison with EAC in an effort to assure better planning and process. Helga would like to stay informed of EAC actions and may attend EAC meetings occasionally.
- Motion by PM that: EAC have Helga Lyons be a liaison to the EAC from the Advisory Committee so that the Advisory Committee may stay apprised of EAC activities and plans.
 - o Motion: PM; 2d: CS; Vote: 4-0.
- **ACTION:**
 - o CG will inform Helga Lyons of EAC vote to work with her as liaison
 - o CG will keep Helga Lyons informed of EAC activities and plans

Agenda Items for Next Meeting (September 16, 2019)

- Public Comment
- Review and Approve Minutes of September 3, 2019 and September 4, 2019
- PMLD Updates, if any
- EAP Next Steps
- Green Communities Scheduling

- Town-wide Cleanup Day
- Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:50p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Burnham-Howard