**Town of Princeton**

**Environmental Action Committee (EAC)**

**Meeting Minutes 4/10/2023**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

*Committee members present*: Corey Burnham- Howard (CBH), Claire Golding (CG), Phil Gott (PG), Kaitlin Kohberger (KK), Steve Jones (SJ), Gerry Pellegrini (GP) (Associate Member), Forrest Iwanik (FI)

*Committee members absent*: Matt Charpentier (MC)

*Advisory Committee liaison present via remote access*: Josh Tanenbaum

*Public Present*: Richard Bisk (RB)

* **Public comment**: RB is soon to conclude his term on the Selectboard and is interested in joining the EAC as many of his interests align with those of the Committee.
* ***Action item*** for next meeting - May 8, 2023:
	+ CBH has requested that all members bring ideas for next year’s action items. This is a great opportunity for all, especially new members, to influence the direction of the Committee going forward.
* **Review of meeting minutes from March 13th, 2023**: SJ moved to accept as written, CG second, unanimous approval.
* **Updates on ongoing initiatives**:
	+ See compiled updates attached. (Distributed to members in advance of and open to discussion during the meeting.)
	+ Transfer station: CG reports that two issues need attention before anything moves forward. First, location of the original document that specified the landfill on Hubbardston Road could help in establishing a transfer station on that site. Current location of that documentation is unknown. Second, the site would need approval from the Princeton Board of Health who have several issues with the idea including the proposal of volunteer staffing. Healthy discussion was had by all members present and the EAC will consider its involvement in this issue regarding its goals for next year. RB also to officially join the Waste and Recycling Subcommittee.
	+ Master Plan Steering Committee: No updates
	+ Green Communities: TPS energy audit still on hold.
	+ PFAS public information session to be held on April 12th, 2023. FCI to attend and summarize for next meeting.
* SJ left the meeting at 8:00 pm.
* **Old and New Business:**
	+ Member Recruitment: KK still in discussion with a potential recruit.
	+ Climate Outreach Campaign:
		- Rain Barrel sale event ongoing, FI to inquire about Princeton’s purchase count.
		- April GNB on Sustainable Landscaping is out for circulation.
		- May GNB on Local Agriculture is in the works
		- EAC will participate in the Agricultural Commission’s Farm Day 2023 by hosting a table at Rattleroot Farm with a family friendly activity. CBH suggested a DIY seed planting with sunflowers in compostable pots which received unanimous support from the Committee. FI and CBH will work to find/acquire supplies necessary. **PG moved that $150.00 be made available for purchasing of these supplies, CG seconded, unanimous approval.** FI, GP, and others volunteered to staff the table, FI to coordinate for next meeting.
		- June GNB on invasive plant and animal species to be written by KK and MC.
		- Thomas Prince School (TPS) has invited EAC participation in their STEAM night event on June 8th, 2023. Members will consider availability.
	+ Earth Month Cleanup is progressing well, however CBH is looking for help with TPS cleanup.
	+ Ecotourism Grant implementation conversation on hold until CMRPC completes Master Plan.
* Agenda items for next meeting:
	+ Brainstorm for next year’s Committee objectives/action items/officer positions
	+ Usual other agenda items
* CBH moved to adjourn at 8:59 pm, PG seconded, unanimous approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Forrest Iwanik

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

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

*No new updates.*

**Snow & Ice Policy (CBH)**

*No new updates.*

**Climate Resiliency Outreach Campaign (CBH)**

 *(See Communications updates below.)*

**MVP (PG)**

*No new updates.*

**PFAS Information Sharing (FI)**

*No new updates.*

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

- EAC has partnered with Worcester’s Community Rain Barrel sales event to offer Princeton residents the opportunity to order rain barrels from the Great American Rain Barrel website at near to wholesale prices—with order pickup on May 22 at Blackstone Heritage Corridor Visitor Center in Worcester. So far one resident has reached out to EAC to ask for help in picking up their rain barrel.

- **April Green News Brief** **– topic was “Native Plants and Sustainable Landscaping**” CBH wrote it, CG edited, and CBH CANVA-tized it and distributed via subscription lists and social media.

- **May Green News Brief- Local Food and Agriculture**- FI, CC?. At Chairs’ breakfast, CBH told Ag Commission member John Mirick that EAC is interested in collaborating on “local food and agriculture”. Ag Commission is hosting Farm Day 5/21 at 4 locations in town: Rattle Root Farm; Audubon; Alpaca Farm on Ball Hill; and one more. They are also considering a farmer’s market for the season.

- **June Green News Brief- Invasive Species: Plants and Insects** – MC and KK. At Chairs’ breakfast, Conservation Commission Chair Brian Keevan expressed interested in this topic and might be interested in collaborating. He is hosting a nature walk in May on invasive species.

- Still need to make website corrections/updates. CBH reached out to new Town Clerk who said she’d train CBH as to how to make changes to pages once she is settled into her new position.

**EAC Liaison Updates:**

**Public Safety Building Committee (PG)**

*No new updates.*

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

All three chapters (Land Use, Economic Development, and Open Space/Natural Resources) have been reviewed by MPSC and returned to CMRPC as of 4/7/23; CBH offered significant comments/corrections to the Land Use chapter, which the committee very much appreciated. MPSC will meet with CMRPC to discuss chapter corrections and next steps at some future date, TBA.

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

WRC was set to meet on 3/9/23, but CG had to cancel the meeting because of a family health emergency. New meeting date has not yet been set.

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

- The meeting scheduled for 3/30 did not have a quorum and had to be rescheduled. A meeting was held on 4/6 but CBH was unable to attend. At that meeting, the group was to review draft Fact Sheet and Presentation regarding the warrant articles that will be on Town Meeting—asking the Town to authorize the Selectboard to lease the former Town landfill to a solar developer. CBH drafted the fact sheet and the presentation, and had suggested that the group host a public information session, as well as attend the Advisory Committee meeting on warrant articles.

**Earth Month Working Group (CG) (CBH)**

The 4th Annual Earth Month kicked off April 1! EAC to consider splitting some minor related costs for signs, prizes, end-of-event celebration. (To discuss at EAC meeting.)

Earth Month was publicized in March Redemption Rock News as well as various social media outlets; 95% of roads are now claimed. Signage was approved by the Selectboard at its 4/6 meeting; signs were put up at Krashes Field, TPS, and the Common on 4/6. Residents on Hubbardston Road, Redemption Rock Trail, and Main Street in East Princeton have agreed to host additional signs. There is one more sign available if anyone has an idea for a good place to post it. No dumpster is currently available, but we may have access to one eventually.

CBH is lead for TPS grounds and trails cleanup and so far has not had any volunteers sign-up. If anyone is up for helping, the date advertised for cleanup is 4/22, but we could also divide and conquer or work together another time.

**Open Space Committee (GP) (CBH)**

Open Space Committee is hosting a series of nature walks this May, guided by various experts, and EAC is a co-sponsor. CBH created flyers advertising the event and posted them on social media.

**PMLD (PG)**

*No new updates.*