

Town of Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

Committee members present:

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

Public Comment: None.

Review & Approve Minutes:

October 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes

- Approved as edited by CBH and PG, with additional edits by CBH to change everything to past tense
- Motion: PG; 2d: CBH; Vote: 3-0

Selectboard Response to EAC's EAP Priority Action List - report

PG & CBH presented our list of priorities. The Selectboard gave unanimous support of all the recommended actions, including communications and a website.

Action Items:

- **CS** will explore web hosts and pricing, looking for non-profit options. She will also create an email for administration of the website (and other communications, like NextDoor), which allows things to go through the EAC and not individuals. We will make it separate from the current gmail address for the EAC, to avoid any open meeting law issues with too many people having access to the main email address.
- **CS** will see if the domain name PrincetonEAC.org is available.

EAP Updates / Next Steps

PG has met with Charlie Cary about updates to the wood burning recommendations of the EAC, adding in what we learned from him at the October 21st meeting.

Action items:

- **PG** to get CBH the word doc version of the file on a thumb drive.
- **PG and CBH** to do their edits and get them to Chris - goal is by EOD December 9, if possible.
- **CS (and CG, if needed)** to get the edits in for the December 16th meeting, if possible.

Green Communities Updates and Next Steps

- CBH has been working with the Planning Board on the As-of-Right and Expedited Permitting requirements of the Green Communities application process. To meet the as-of-right zoning for renewable energy criteria, the Planning Board is considering a solar generation overlay zoning for the old Town dump property. CBH and PG met with Light Commissioners, who support such a project and voted to allow transmission on PMLD lines. Note however that transmission

lines outside of Princeton may be “full” and unable to support additional generated energy, unless investment is made to upgrade lines.

- CBH was tasked (by the Planning Board) to look into:-
 - the easement over DCR land to the Town dump property
 - getting Light Commissioners’ support
 - checking in with the Conservation Commission regarding expedited permit criteria of Green Communities designation
 - Town willingness to lease the property
 - Mike Howard, a wetland scientist, created slides re: the implications of wetlands permitting related to the proposed solar site, which CBH provided to Conservation Commission Chair Brian Keegan (BK). She will attend next Conservation Commission to discuss Green Communities application and expedited permitting criteria.

Action items:

- **CBH** will attend Planning Board’s December 5th meeting, and present the findings of all these issues. It is not currently clear if expedited permitting needs to be explicitly stated or just not prohibited.

Municipal Vulnerability Planning Program Updates and next steps

- The window for submitting the MVP application is now through January 15th, and the state will be giving out grants until the money runs out.
- Town Manager (TM) Sherry Patch has been filling out the bulk of the application and getting letters of commitment and support from appropriate Town boards. She is using the template from Sunderland, which was approved for MVP funding.
- PG is working on question #6 of MVP application, which deals with the impact climate change could have on the Town.
- The application is expected to go out by the end of the week.

Communications - set schedule

- CS created a Communication Schedule spreadsheet in our Google Doc Communications > Public Information Sharing folder. She made a first pass at assigning topics to people. There is a schedule column for each topic to add the month we’d like to communicate the topic. The goal is to have the article/prose ready for review at the first meeting of the month, and then, once approved, to send to various communications outlets and mark the date submitted in the appropriate column.
- It was noted that some items are seasonal and we can swizzle things around so that communications go out in a timely manner.
- The document will also be a historical record of our communications, and topics can be added/modified.

Action items:

- **All EAC members** look at the Communications Schedule, pick topics, and set a date to write one of those topics within the first 5 months of the year. (CS mentioned that if a Green Communities report of Green Communities Central Massachusetts Coordinator Kelly Brown’s

visit won't be ready for January, she can write up one for Radon testing, since it's best done during the winter when the house is closed up.)

- **CBH** to submit something to Town News to notify residents of Kelly Brown's Selectboard presentation on December 10th.
- **CS** to set up a NextDoor account for the EAC (using EAC communications email address) and post the write up from CBH.
- **CS** to fill out contact info and submission dates for each communication avenue (a tab in the Communications Schedule spreadsheet).

Agenda Items for Next Meeting (December 4, 2019)

- Public Comment
- Review and Approve Minutes of November 18, 2019
- EAP Updates / Next Steps
- Green Communities Updates / Next Steps
- Municipal Vulnerability Planning Program Updates / Next Steps
- Communications - review schedule
- Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:31p.m.

Motion: PG; 2d: CS; Vote: 3-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Samoiloff