

Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC) Meeting Minutes December 17, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm

Committee members present:

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

Absent:

Phoebe Moore (PM)

Public Comment

No public comment

Review & Approve Minutes

Vote: December 5th meeting minutes unanimously accepted (4-0) with date corrections (2020 changed to 2019)

Update on Communications with Town Hall

Waiting for an official answer from Nina on voting procedures for on-boarding new members.

We got an answer from Nina on our revised questions related to current Town policies on energy, waste, natural resources, and land use. She has assigned questions to various employees and will send them along as she gets them. So far we know:

- There has been no energy audit since she's been there.
- E.L. Harvey is the trash and recycling hauler for the town.
- She sent a listing of the land owned by the town and noted that if a map is needed, the assessor said that they could ask the Central Mass Regional Planning Council (CMRPC) to create one. **Action item:** The committee felt a map would be helpful and CBH will request a map after the holidays.

We have not gotten a personal response back from our feedback on the Code of Conduct proposed by the Select Board (BOS), but responses were listed in their 2018-11-27 minutes and some of our responses were quoted in The Landmark. The BOS is proposing writing a preamble to the Code to address some of the feedback. The committee felt that we should wait for this preamble to see if our concerns were addressed and may submit additional comments/suggestions at that time.

New Member Update

CG got a reply from new EAC member Rob Abady about committing to attending the Feb 6th meeting. He wanted to wait to see if the committee will be disbanded before committing. Per this response, CG asked him to kindly withdraw his application for membership if he cannot commit to attending 80% of EAC meetings, as he agreed to at the November 19 meeting. **VOTE:** If she

does not get a response by the time of our next meeting Jan 2, or if he cannot commit to attending meetings starting on February 6th, the committee will reach out to BOS to ask for him to be removed from the committee. Vote was unanimous.

Action item: CG will contact Lynne Grettum to inquire whether or not Mr. Abady has been sworn in and if there is a time limit between appointment to a committee and completing the required training and paperwork. She will also ask if we are currently held to a quorum of 4 because of his appointment.

Review initial streamlined section (Energy)

The committee liked CG's streamlining of the section, CBH, CS, and PG all submitted hand-written notes/suggestions, and PG noted the continuing conflict between a desire to be all-inclusive on one hand, and concise, easy reading on the other. He suggested that the addition of an executive summary up front would allow the desired level of detail in the body of the report while providing an easy-reading summary up front. PG volunteered to write the executive summary.

Proposed steps for finishing the report:

1. Fill in missing information (all of us)
2. Make it read well / structure the sections (CG)
3. Write an executive summary for the whole document (PG)

Also:

- Include a glossary of terms and acronyms
- Put an introduction to the Green Communities initiative in the Executive Summary; make note of when a proposed action meets a Green Communities requirement; put a detailed description of the initiative in an appendix.

Additional agenda item - propose meeting dates for the 1st half of 2019

The following dates were discussed, after reviewing conflicts with any holidays:

Jan 2

Jan 21 NO MEETING (MLK Day holiday)

Feb 6

Feb 20 (to avoid Presidents' Day holiday)

Mar 6

Mar 18

Apr 3

Apr 17 (to avoid Patriots' Day holiday)

May 1

May 20

June 5

June 17

Vote: the committed voted to approve the proposed dates, 4-0

Action item: CG will check with the sanctuary about the dates and send them to Lynne.

Feedback on Collins Center meeting

CG and PG attended the meeting regarding 2020 capital planning for Princeton led by Sarah Concannon who has been engaged as a consultant for the Town to help it in putting together a 5-year capital plan. (This is a program created by Governor Charlie Baker that the Town is taking advantage of.)

Although we do have recommendations in the EAP that would require capital expenditures we came to the same conclusion as last meeting - that since we aren't submitting the final EAP until June (at the latest), it might be better to wait until next year to submit any capital improvements. The capital plan is a rolling one and items may be added to it yearly.

Action item: CG to submit the following to Sarah Concannon, cc:ing the BOS and Nina.

“The EAC has some capital items associated with our recommendations that we are considering, but we feel it's too early to determine if these will result in costs to the town or will be covered by a grant. We look forward to finishing our Plan and proposing specifics for inclusion in the Town's 2020 capital plan.”

Vote: this wording was approved unanimously (4-0)

Feedback on Dec 12 PMLD meeting (PG)

- PMLD voted to maintain the current 2018 electric power rate for 2019. Note that utilities are allowed by regulation to change their rates up to 4 times per year, so this particular action does not guarantee the same rate for all of 2019.
- In regard to the requests for renewable energy, it was found not possible to sell windmill power to NextEra and have them sell it back to us, since PMLD is a not-for-profit entity and NextEra is a for-profit entity.
- PMLD is proposing a \$10,000 matching rebate for people using the HELPS program to install heat pump technology in their homes. Heat pumps include those for heating, clothes drying and water heating. It will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- PMLD is getting a new company to do energy audits.
- PMLD is looking at the February 2019 time frame to publicize both the rebate and the new vendor for the energy audit. PG offered to join with them at a public meeting to present a draft of our EAP along with their publicization of their rebates and HELPS program.

EAC recommended reading list

Our recommended reading list will be a living document. PG will keep it updated. CBH found our initial links on the Town's web site.

Action item: PG will submit the complete EAC reading list to Lynne so she can add additional links to the Town web site.

Action Items

- CBH will request a map of Town-owned properties from Nina after the holidays.
- CG will contact Lynne Grettum to inquire whether or not Mr. Abady has been sworn in and if there is a time limit between appointment to a committee and completing the required training and paperwork. She will also ask if we are currently held to a quorum of 4 because of his appointment.
- CG will check with the sanctuary about the proposed EAC 2019 meeting dates and send them to Lynne.
- CG to submit the following to Sarah, cc:ing the BOS and Nina: “The EAC has some capital items associated with our recommendations, but we feel it’s too early to determine if these will be a cost to the town or covered by a grant. We are looking forward to reviewing these for insertion into the 2020 capital plans.”
- PG will submit the complete EAC reading list to Lynne so she can add additional links to the Town web site.

Agenda items for next meeting

- Public comment period
- Review and approve minutes of 12/17/18
- Update on communications with Town Hall
- Update on action items
- Discuss any updates to the EAP
- Agenda items for next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Samoiloff