

# Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC) Meeting Minutes May 21, 2018

**Meeting called to order** at 7:11pm

*Committee members present:*

Claire Golding (CG), Corey Burnham-Howard (CBH), Phoebe Moore (PM), Chris Samoiloff (CS), Brett Gibbs (BG)

*Absent:* Michael Knapp (MK), Phil Gott (PG)

**Public Comment:** none

**Review & Approve Minutes:**

May 2, 2018: approved 4-0 with one amendment (BG arrived after this vote)

**Round robin of exciting research discoveries:**

*PM:* The HeatSmart Program will have another round of applications (Princeton meets the criteria for the program). Applications are due in July. PM will research further.

*CS:* met with Walt Gowey, chair of the Agricultural Commission and got a lot of good information. Walt and Chris discussed EAC and Ag Com meeting after the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) is written, and the possibility of teaming up for public education around sustainable gardening/farming. She also found out that the Ag Commission has a small budget they use to pay speakers. EAC discussed requesting a budget at the next Annual Town Meeting for similar use.

CS also found out that all Massachusetts communities are right-to-farm, and that the Town's *Farm Preservation Law* was adopted (in 2007) to re-affirm laws already on the books for the state. And that farming in MA is moving away from large-scale production farms towards market gardens and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

*CG:* found out that East Brookfield – a town similar in size to ours – has a pay-as-you-throw and curbside trash program in their town. She will be reaching out to them.

*CBH:* was excited to find out from a custodian at Thomas Prince School that TPS had switched trash haulers and the new hauler does mixed recyclables. The waste management group will find out the recycling status of our other town buildings.

CBH also found out, in her research, that beet juice is an effective icy/snowy road treatment and is actually more effective than salt. There can be complaints about the smell, however, so she will do more research into other environmentally-friendly road treatments.

CBH has been considering proposing a watershed management policy for the town, which would describe what the town needs to do to maintain compliance with state watershed management laws (water use, use of salt on roads, etc.). BG reported that the Town's Master Plan mentions such a policy.

EAC may want to recommend such a policy if: 1. there are resources at risk in town that the policy could address, 2. there is state legislation requiring that towns have such a policy, or 3. the policy spans

more than one committee's purview, so that each committee has a common document to reference.

*BG*: in The Master Plan they talk a lot about keeping Princeton rural, and how to do that, and our current 2-acre zoning and frontage rules actually compete with that goal.

### **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Discussion**

Moved to next month's meeting, when PG is present.

### **Work in groups**

Some initial discussion before breaking into smaller groups, as follows:

When referencing recommended grants in the EAP, it would be good to highlight a few examples that have been awarded in other towns.

There is another MVP program – Home Market Value Performance Program--that we might want to explore because it could be related to the stretch code.

While we are working on the EAP, we are coming across grants that would be nice to get on top of now. When it makes sense, we will explore those alongside our research/writing.

CBH wondered about the hiring of a grant writer. CG noted that some towns share resources for grant writing. CBH will ask Nina what the Town's grant writing process is currently.

### **Action Items**

- CBH to email CS the EAC's town survey / results.
- CBH to ask Nina about the Town's current grant writing process.
- Everybody to read the MVP document PG sent out in preparation for next month's discussion.

### **Agenda items for next meeting**

- Public comment period
- Review and approve minutes of May 21, 2018 meeting
- MVP discussion.
- Round robin of exciting research discoveries
- Work in groups

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:33pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris Samoiloff