

**Town of Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC)
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm

Committee members present:

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

Public Comment: No Comment. Charlie Cary present.

Review & Approve Minutes from February 5, 2020 Meeting:

- Members reviewed and discussed minutes, including suggested minor amendments.
 - o **MOTION** to approve minutes as amended with minor edits.
Motion: CBH; 2d: CS; Vote: 5-0

Housekeeping: Town Remote Communications Policy

- CG explained that Town Selectboard has adopted a new Town Remote Communications Policy that allows for the use, on rare occasions, of remote conferencing by committee members into public meetings

Environmental Action Plan (EAP) Updates and Next Steps:

- Mike Howard printed 12 copies of the final EAP. CBH distributed it to EAC members and to Sherry Patch for distribution to Selectboard members.
ACTION: CBH will also distribute copies of final EAP to Senior Center, Town Hall, and Town Library.

EAC Budget:

- CG submitted to Town Administrator, Sherry Patch, a budget request for EAC of \$1,000 for costs associated with printing final copies of the EAP, informational materials for residents and businesses regarding Annual Town Meeting Warrant articles and environmental issues relevant to Princeton, and supplies for Town environmental events such as Earth Day event. CG has not heard any news on budget request since submittal.

Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD) Update:

- PG attended PMLD 2/12/20 meeting. PG provided update/report. (See attached PG report of PMLD Meeting summary.)

Green Communities Updates and Next Steps:

- CBH provided update.
 - o Town received grant of District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) funds—which allows for commencement of work with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC).
 - o Planning Board Chair, John Mirick, drafted a memo regarding Town compliance with Green Communities Criteria 1 and Criteria 2, which was forwarded by Sherry Patch to the Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Division Central Massachusetts Regional Coordinator Kelly Brown and to Sarah Adams of CMRPC for

their review and feedback.

- CBH drafted a “Stretch Energy Code” information summary for possible distribution via Town News—informing residents on need to adopt Stretch Code at Town Meeting in order to achieve Green Communities designation criteria. CBH provided revised version of information summary to EAC members for their review.
- CBH drafted Town Meeting Warrant Article, Motion, and General Bylaws for proposed adoption of the Stretch Energy Code, and sent to Sherry Patch for her review and the review of Town Counsel.

ACTION: EAC members to provide to CBH any comments and suggested edits on Stretch Energy Code information summary.

ACTION: CBH to finalize Stretch Energy Code information sheet and send by March 10 to Aimee Kindorff of the Council on Aging for inclusion in Senior Center Newsletter.

ACTION: CBH to send Stretch Energy Code summary sheet to Town Clerk, Ginger Toll, for publication in Town News sometime in early April.

ACTION: CBH will continue attempts to communicate with Town of Rutland regarding their efforts to include their elementary and middle schools in the Green Communities-required Energy Reduction Plan via authorization from the Wachusett Regional School District (WRSD) Superintendent and/or School Committee.

Municipal Vulnerability Planning (MVP) Program updates and next steps:

- PG provided update.
 - There is a MVP Core Team meeting schedule for March 5.
 - PG asked EAC members to submit to him names of potential individuals who would be invited to participate in the Community Resilience Building Workshop on April 2 from 8a to 4:30p.
 - EAC members may be asked to participate in the workshop, including as table facilitators.

PFAS Water Testing

- CS proposed that she would like to organize group discounted PFAS testing and promote such as a service offered by EAC. CBH expressed hesitancy at EAC offering such a service, including liability issues and need for Selectboard permission. EAC agreed that CS could, as private citizen (not EAC representative), pursue 10-15 participants for group discount PFAS testing. EAC also agreed that CS would need to inquire with Selectboard and/or Sherry Patch regarding idea of EAC offering group discounted PFAS testing coordinated effort.

ACTION: CS to inquire with Selectboard and/or Sherry Patch regarding idea of EAC offering group discounted PFAS testing coordinated effort

Waste/Recycling Updates

- CG provided update.
 - Selectboard created a six-month study committee comprising members from Selectboard, Board of Health, Advisory Committee, Environmental Action Committee, and Road Advisory Committee—which will evaluate Town needs/wants on trash/recycling.
 - Board of Health sent survey to residents to evaluate their needs/wants on trash recycling.
 - CG will present Town Buzz “Talking Trash” on March 5. EAC members may attend that Town Buzz and participate as private residents (not as EAC members since no public meeting posted).

ACTION: CG to present Town Buzz “Talking Trash” on 3/5/20.

Open Space Workshop

- CBH provided update.
 - o Open Space Committee (OSC) is updating their Open Space and Recreation Plan (as required periodically). OSC hosted meetings with invitees from various interested parties, seeking the parties' input. CBH attended meeting as EAC representative.
 - CBH noted that parties in attendance included: Historical Commission, North County Land Trust, CBH for EAC, Clair Degutis, Aimee Kindorff for Council on Aging, Walter Gowey for Agricultural Commission, Karen Rossow and Rick Gardner for OSC, Sherry Patch, and Marie Auger as Land Use Coordinator.
 - CBH noted that she presented her thought that OSC survey results indicated same priorities already identified in Open Space and Recreation Plan, and that priority therefore might be on ensuring adequate resources of volunteers and money for implementation of already existing priorities in Plan. CBH also shared all EAP-identified action steps that overlapped and related to land use.
 - CBH noted that based on input from folks at the meeting, it seemed that many identified priorities could be met with a thoughtful and well-planned renovation of an existing Town park, which could provide a playground for children, flat walking area for strollers and elderly and disabled, "game" area for seniors, and a community garden.

Communications

- CS provided updates.
 - o CS would like the EAC to be able to provide a regular newsletter to residents via Mail Chimp.

ACTION: CS to ask Sherry Patch for her thoughts on that idea and how best to implement it.
 - o CS spoke to Town Clerk, Ginger Toll about getting a tutorial on how to input info on the EAC's Town webpage. Ginger suggested tutorial after State primary elections.

ACTION: CS to reach out to Ginger Toll at end of March regarding obtaining a tutorial to input info on EAC's Town webpage.

ACTION: CBH to revise Stretch Energy Code Information Sheet by 3/10 for submittal to Aimee Kindorff for Senior Center Newsletter.

ACTION: CBH to create Stretch Energy Code Information Sheet for submittal to Sherry Patch and Town News.

ACTION: CBH to draft Town Green Communities Designation pursuit summary by 4/10 for review by Sherry Patch and then submittal to Aimee Kindorff for Senior Center Newsletter.

ACTION: CS to forward summary information sheets to The Landmark, Redemption Rock News, and Town News.

Sheep and Wool Festival

- CG shared that Mass Audubon Wachusett Meadow is hosting Sheep and Wool Festival on April 18. CG will host EAC table from 1-4. CS and CBH may join as able. EAC members agreed that that it would be helpful to have handouts/information sheets on Stretch Energy Code and Lawn Care for Spring.

ACTION: CBH to draft info sheet on Stretch Energy Code for festival handout

ACTION: CS and CG to look for copies of past EAC Lawn Care sheet prepared by CS for festival handout

Earth Day 50th Anniversary

- CG provided updates.
 - o CG is member of the committee organizing a town-wide cleanup of roads, trails, parks and playgrounds. The committee also includes OSC members Rick Gardener and Karen Rossow, as well as Rick Rys, and Laurie Kraemer. The cleanup is during the month of April and is, in part, in honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. A celebration is planned for May 2.
 - o Volunteers contact Rick Gardner with the location they intend to clean, and he is keeping track of volunteers, assignments, and completions on a map.

ACTION: The EAC agrees to do a group cleanup of the Town Common and Goodnow Park on April 11.

ACTION: CBH offers to assist with organizing cleanup of Thomas Prince School Grounds and per CG will contact Laurie Kraemer or Karen Rossow.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting (March 18, 2020)

- Public Comment
- Review and Approve Minutes of March 4, 2020
- PMLD updates
- Green Communities Designation Application updates and next steps
- MVP Program updates and next steps
- Waste and Recycling updates and next steps
- PFAS Water Testing updates
- Communications
- Sheep & Wool Festival
- Earth Day Town-wide Cleanup
- Agenda items for Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

MOTION to adjourn.

Motion: PG; 2d: CBH; Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Burnham-Howard