**Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC) Meeting Minutes**

**January 24, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

Committee members present: Phil Gott (PG), Phoebe Moore (PM), Brett Gibbs (BG) Claire Golding (CG)

Public comment: none

Approved 12-18-17 minutes by unanimous vote of members

PM presented summary report of survey results via a Powerpoint presentation:

* 202 responses = 6% of the Princeton population
* Discussion of findings – quantitative presented in Powerpoint; Phoebe to work on summarizing qualitative (comment-based) responses
* How to best use data to frame report and integrate findings within report
* Plan to present report on survey in public venue once it is complete
* Points towards action items for town and future EAC tasks if EAC is continued beyond June 2018
* Green energy and responsible trash/recycling are top 2 town environmental priorities within survey sample

Progress on Environmental Action Plan (EAP)

* PG has started to draft the **energy** area (working with Phoebe and Corey) and circulated preliminary draft to the committee
  + PG and CG - stretch code should be part of the energy portion.
* Re **trash/recyclin**g (Claire and Mike) – Mike Knapp (absent) has drafted an outline to work from.
* Northboro has a new pay as you throw system which may be informative for us
* MA has a zero waste goal by 2050 – concerned about how we eliminate or reduce waste in the state, so there may be state resources to help with waste reduction efforts in town (grants, kits). –One example is a “TrashIQ” program to reduce quantity and increase quality; requires a commitment from town, appointed staff to monitor, etc. Holden participated in a pilot of this program.
* Review of Princeton’s Annual Report by CG indicates that trash in town is managed by Board of Health – little info available on trash hauling except that the waste generated in 2016 was 20% less than the previous year. CG will get in touch with BoH or Town Hall to find out more.
* Wachusett recycling center – do they keep track by town? Residents, amounts? CG will try to find out.
* **Natural resources** – CG – no action yet
* Discussion of building regulations, Conservation Commission, need to acknowledge these in EAP
* BG – **land use** – town’s master plan has a lot about this topic – BG feels he need guidance about ways we should be tackling this area. CG – one issue is how something like a solar farm would impact the town. PG - idea of zoning for “green enterprise” within industrial zoned areas in town. Need to review zoning maps. Need to find areas that might be designated “as-of-right” for solar/wind siting and for a Green Community designation. Other EAC recommendations may affect land use. Also farming, pesticides – need to consult other town committees, including Agricultural Committee, Planning/Zoning Boards, Princeton Land Trust
* Brief mention of beekeepers and their stake in lowered pesticide use, lawn treatment, etc because it affects bees—could also be part of land use
* PG – State goal of preservation of forest and larger carbon sequestration, climate change preparedness
* Example EAPs have items related to invasives – e.g. insects and plants – diversity of species versus “monocrop”

More general discussion of report and how to best structure the report

* Overall structure needed for each section: overview of what we know already/current situation; state goals; town goals or plans; opportunities and benefits; resources for residents.
* Princeton specific items versus items that are more generally applicable across towns – consult Concord and Tacoma for some guidelines, and then develop those areas that are Princeton specific
* Some of us may want to consult other town committees – Con Com, Ag Com, planning board, zoning board, Princeton Land Trust
* PG – this report should show the interdependencies of all areas of the report – intersectional
* PG – what regulations should we know about and reference? Our lawyer team who are absent tonight (Corey and Mike) will know more about these
* CG – sometimes hard to update knowledge – e.g. what has changed from Patrick to Baker administration on some of these issues such as zero waste plan?
* Overall goal of accuracy and care in making a high quality document
* Hang onto sources, citations in report – be sure to make footnotes or cite as you are drafting
* need to set writing deadlines, timeline
* need to update Board of Selectmen on our progress – and present survey results – long term goal of saving $, better tax base (via Green Communities), and electric power revenue issue
* PG – we hope to become an advisory resource for the town – should we put into the report a few paragraphs on things like whether/how to get an EV? – could be an action item on the EAP
* Need to reschedule some Monday meetings because of holidays: 2/19, 4/16. 2/19 meeting will move to 2/21, and 4/16 meeting will move to 4/18. Weds meetings always at 7 pm, Mondays at 7:30. CG will check with Cindy at Audubon and we need to check with CBH and MK.
* Next meeting is 2/7. Goal: have outlines of our report areas; this will help focus our next efforts.
* CG to check with Nina on the BoS schedule for us to get on the agenda to share survey findings and report status of EAC sometime in Feb.
* PM to summarize qualitative data to add to report on survey
* CG to head to Green Municipal Light Plant retreat on Saturday, PM to Mothers Out Front (energy/climate) on Saturday
* How to best move things forward in meeting – work in small groups if that seems more productive, being sure to come together at the end to look for synergy between the areas
* Nina is going to advertise the open EAC position (Sue H resigned) for 3 weeks and then we hope to discuss and have input into the new member
* Set agenda items for next meeting – review qualitative data, updated report sections and discussion of how to better develop them, any new business or other business
* Adjourned by committee vote 8:56 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Phoebe Moore