

Princeton Environmental Action Committee

Meeting Date: September 6, 2017

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present (members noted by initials in minutes):

Brett Gibbs
Claire Golding
Corey Burnham-Howard
Michael Knapp
Phil Gott
Phoebe Moore
Sue Hardenbrook

Also Present: Nina Nazarian

Meeting Opened:

- Committee members introduce themselves, their backgrounds, their interest in the Environmental Action Committee (EAC)
- Committee begins vote for Chair; Vice-chair; and clerk
 - o PG suggests Chair should be one of CG, CBH or PM, as they were the originators of the idea for the EAC
 - o PM moves for CG as chair, PG seconds
 - CG elected as chair 7-0-0
 - o SH moves CBH for vice-chair, PM seconds
 - CBG elected as vice-chair 7-0-0
 - o CBH moves MK for clerk, CG seconds
 - MK elected as clerk 7-0-0
- NN issues key to CG
- NN advises on how to conduct meeting
- EAC asks NN about various requirements of the Open Meeting Law, specifically impacts it has on subgroups of EAC meeting
 - o If it's a quorum, must comply with EAC
 - o NN will check in with AG's office regarding sub-quorum work
 - o Public meetings must be ADA accessible\
 - o NN recommends holding meetings in town space
 - o CG asks about meeting space at PMLD
 - NN to her knowledge only historical society has used space there
- NN advises group to consider how to keep Board of Selectmen involved and aware of EAC activities
 - o NN can pass on info
- EAC discusses meeting schedule times
 - o First Wednesdays at 7:00 works by consensus
 - o 3rd Monday at 7:30 works by consensus
 - o Group agrees to following meeting dates/times:
 - 9/25/2017 at 7:30pm
 - 10/4/2017 at 7:00pm

- 10/16/2017 at 7:30pm
 - 11/1/2017 at 7:00 pm
 - 11/20/2017 at 7:30 pm
 - 12/6/2017 at 7:00 pm
 - 12/18/2017 at 7:30 pm
 - CG will check with Town Clerk about availability of town space for these dates/times
- CG: kick off discussion of scope and objectives of EAC
 - CBH: to create an Environmental Action Plan (EAP) and serve as resource for town, committees/boards, and residents
 - CG: given our one year term, we should focus on EAP
 - PG: what is an EAP?
 - CBH: lots of great examples, will share with group
 - Important to identify goals of EAP, e.g., energy; material management; natural systems, etc.
 - We should seek input on what should go in the plan from Town
 - PG looked at Town of Concord's plan, noted it spent a lot of time gathering data
 - CBH: we should identify questions first, but not answer them for now
 - PG: notes Town is reviewing facilities needs right now, perhaps EAC should weigh in on environmental impacts of these choices
 - CBH: perhaps we could have a liaison to other committees
 - CG: or just make ourselves available to them
 - BG: is the focus on the Town as a governmental body or the citizens?
 - CG: I think both, but can only make recommendations to citizens
 - CBH: EAP advises the town leaders
 - PG: Do we want to be able to advise town at the same time as developing EAP?
 - CBH: focus on EAP
 - MK: given short amount of time, focus on EAP
 - CBH: some other towns have EAC info on town website
 - CG: will look into whether we can get info on the town website
 - SH: putting a survey regarding the EAP on the website would be efficient
 - CG: what type of public outreach should we do? In-person meeting; snail mail, online, etc.?
 - PM: multi-format would be good, but need to standardize responses. Maybe other towns have surveys to look to.
 - CBH: need to do outreach to town committees also could offer all committees chance to be liaison to EAC.
 - MK: we could issue a survey to the committees just as we do to town residents
 - CG: and if we need to get more info, we can follow-up
 - CG: raises idea of getting student help in developing EAP, especially from WPI, but notes this would come with very limited time horizon
 - SH: knows people at Clark who she could also contact

- Identification of Action items:
 - o CBH will send out example EAPs; reach out to other towns re: surveys
 - o CG: email Town clerk re: schedule and website
 - o MK: type up and send out minutes
- Agenda for next meeting:
 - o Approve minutes
 - o How to handle public comments / how to communicate with outside speakers
 - o Possibility of having outside speakers invited to meeting
- Public Comments:
 - o David Pratt (Gregory Hill Road): Is survey really necessary? Because goal of EAC seems to be to ID what Town's goals are. That's a very broad question to ask of residents
 - o CBH notes that MA Clean Energy Initiative had a grant to conduct an assessment
- SH: notes that EAC could have big impact with Facilities Committee regarding proposed building renovations. We need to open dialogue with this committee.
 - o CG plans to attend their next meeting and speak in her personal capacity
- Public Comment:
 - o David Pratt (Gregory Hill Road): can you designate someone outside of EAC to be a liaison to other committees?
- Meeting Adjourned 9:00 pm.