

**Princeton Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
of Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting
Princeton, NJ, 08540**

Land Acknowledgement: "We gather today on the land of the Lenni Lenape. As members of the Princeton community, we aspire to show appreciation, respect, and concern for all peoples and our environment. We acknowledge the genocide and continuous displacement of indigenous peoples and the harm inflicted upon the indigenous communities and people of color across the country. We honor the Lenape and other Indigenous caretakers of these lands and waters, the elders who lived here before, the Indigenous today, and the generations to come. We further acknowledge the millions of enslaved Africans and their descendants on whose backs this nation was created."

Opening Statement: Adequate notice of this meeting as required by Sections 3d and 4a of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided and filed with the Princeton Clerk.

Roll Call: Marcus-Levine, Pearlmuter, Reich, Rutberg (alt. 2), Sands (Chair), Smith, Smorada (alt. 1), Soos (Vice), Tech-Czarny; Board of Health Liaison, Sustainable Princeton (Ludmer), and Council Liaison (Niedergang)

Public in attendance:

Sarah Falk and Susan Bristol from the Watershed, Anne Corichi from FOPOS, Elana Berk from Sustainable Princeton

Absent: Board of Health Representative

Time: Meeting called to order at 7:31 pm

- I. **Approval of Agenda** which was altered to include approval of two letters. One letter to the editor (LTE) outlining methods of garbage container reuse and another letter of support (LOS) for a grant application by Friends of Princeton Open Space (FOPOS).

Moved: Pearlmuter
Second: Tech-Czarny
→ Unanimously approved

- II. **Approval of Minutes** (Sands)
14 December 2022

Moved: Tech-Czarny
Second: Marcus-Levine
→ Unanimously approved

- III. **Public comment:** none.

IV. Council Report (Niedergang)

Included in the report were the following:

- The Waste contract for trash hauling was approved, but distribution of new trash cans was delayed. However, the reservation system for bulk trash pickups will go into effect on Feb 1, 2023.
- The Recreation Department is looking for a PEC representative to join them in discussing plans for renovations of Community Park South.
- The contract with Sustainable Princeton was renewed.
- A temporary dog park will open in Community Park South on 2/6/2023.
- An off-leash dog park at Quarry Park will be available to residents from 7-9 am daily.
- An ordinance was passed regarding an affordable housing overlay for the Witherspoon-Jackson district
- Another ordinance reduced speed limits on Witherspoon and John streets to 20 miles per hour from the current 25 MPH.

V. Discussion & Decisions

a. Administrative Matters (Sands)

i. Current PEC members introduced themselves, followed by new commissioners. Two members of the public were also introduced, representing the Watershed.

ii. Appointment of Anne Soos as Vice Chair

Moved: Tech-Czarny

Second: Marcus-Levine

→ Unanimously approved

iii. Appointment of Commission Secretary Eva Herzog

Moved: Soos

Second: Tech-Czarny

→ Unanimously approved

iv. Appointment of Liaisons:

Flood and Storm Water: Smorada

Planning Board: Tech-Czarny

Community Park South: Pearlmutter

Waste Transition: Soos

Moved: Marcus-Levine

Second: Smith

→ Unanimously approved

v. 2023 Meeting Dates/Times:

- Vote was taken to resume in-person meetings. Defeated, with 4 in favor, 5 opposed. Meetings will continue virtually. There may possibly be one or two in-person meetings later in the year.
- Times of meetings for 2023 will be changed to 7:00 pm from 7:30 pm.

- Meetings will be on the fourth Wednesday of each month with the following exceptions: no meeting in August, and meetings in November and December will be adjusted to avoid Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- The 2023 dates are as follows: Feb 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, September 27, October 25, November 15, December 13.

b. Stream Cleanup 2023:

Event is held annually in cooperation with the Watershed.

Date: April 22, Earth Day. Location TBD. Time 9-11 am.

c. Agenda Addition: Letters in support of FOPOS grant and trash can reuse were discussed.

Motion to approve FOPOS letter: Marcus-Levine

Second: Smith

→ Unanimously approved

Motion to approve LTE: Marcus-Levine

Second: Tech-Czarny

→ Unanimously approved

d. Annual Goals and Leads/Co-leads

The annual goals were discussed at length. These goals each have one or more commissioners responsible for leading them. In brief, the goals and leaders are as follows:

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Master Plan: | Tech-Czarny and entire commission. Tech-Czarny is now on the planning board subcommittee to the master plan. The plan is expected to be completed by this summer. |
| Site Plan Review: | Marcus-Levine and Reich |
| Open Space: | Tech-Czarny and Reich |
| Climate Responsible Landscaping: | Sands, Soos, and Rutberg |
| Climate Justice: | Sands and Smith |
| Community Energy: | Soos |
| Water Quality: | Smorada |

The commission was urged to also examine long-term goals, and to consider the possible long-term effects of our annual goals. This will involve research and written white papers.

VI. Reports

- a. Board of Health (BOH Representative):** no report, representative absent
- b. Sustainable Princeton:** Ludmer announced a planned event at Morven on April 23rd highlighting composting, rain barrel construction, and more. Times yet to be decided.
- c. Flood and Storm Water Commission:** Meeting scheduled for January was canceled
- d. Planning Board:** Tech-Czarny has not been able to attend b/c not reappointed until this meeting. A few sessions have been held, including a development on Mountain Avenue, the affordable housing overlay mentioned earlier, and the proposed Hobson College at PU (hearing postponed).
- e. Waste Transition Team (Soos):** mentioned delay in new trash can delivery, ongoing research into composting of organics.

General discussions including questions from new commissioners included

- What is a quorum, and why that is important in email chains
- "Oath of Office" has been submitted by all
- ANJEC training for new commissioner highly recommended
- Mandatory flood and storm water training must be completed -Deanna Stockton, Municipal Deputy Administrator to forward.

VII. Adjournment

Time 9:25 pm

Motion: Tech-Czarny

Second: Marcus-Levine

→ Unanimously approved

Submitted by Anne Soos January 26, 2023

Approved by PEC on February 22, 2023