

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Princeton Flood and Stormwater Commission**

**March 31, 2023**

The meeting of the Princeton Flood and Stormwater Commission was convened at 10:05 a.m. on Friday, March 31, 2023 via Zoom. S. Lieberman opened the meeting in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Section 5, Chapter 231, P.L. 275. In conformance with the requirements of the law, notice was provided of the date, time, and location of this regular meeting and filed with the Clerk of Princeton.

**I. Roll Call**

Members: David Cohen, Princeton Council Liaison; Stuart Lieberman; Scott Sillars; Barbara Vadnais; Daniel Van Abs; Louise Wilson; Chaira Smorada; Princeton Environmental Commission Liaison.

Absent: No one was absent.

Princeton Engineering: James Purcell, Assistant Engineer; Andrew Filippi, Sewer Engineer.

Absent: No one was absent.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

D. Cohen moved to approve the Agenda as presented. D. Van Abs seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Approval of February 3, 2023 Minutes**

B. Vadnais moved to approve the February 3, 2023 Minutes as presented. L. Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. 2023 Flood and Stormwater Commission**

B. Vadnais stated that this agenda item was already discussed at the February meeting.

**V. Public Comment**

N. Seiberg discussed drainage problems on Herrontown Road, which have been worsening over the years. D. Cohen responded that he was aware of the same problem on other roads without drainage. The town may need a strategy to address stormwater infrastructure issues.

D. Cohen stated that a townwide survey of roadway conditions was done. J. Purcell stated that he has that data from the consultant and that they are working on prioritization. M. Seiberg commented that she had worked with the Watershed Institute, but that the planting of trees and other efforts have not been successful.

Discussion: Smoyer Park tree removal and possible impact on stormwater issues; replacing of sewage pipes along Herrontown Road; municipal budget for drains; impact of climate change, higher intensity and more frequent storms; impact of leaves clogging drains and township's efforts to education residents about leaves in streets.

## VI. **Discussions and Decisions**

### a. **House Keeping**

The township is no longer providing a recording secretary. D. Cohen will look into whether this is permanent or temporary.

### b. **Municipal Update**

J. Purcell and D. Cohen stated that they have nothing further.

### c. **Floodplain Management Ordinance**

J. Purcell is still waiting for the attorneys to complete their review. He presented to Watershed Institute at meeting with adjoining towns. It is a privileged document at this point and has not been sent to M. Pisauro yet. J. Purcell does not know when the attorneys will get back to him, and has no further updates.

### d. **Stormwater Flows Mapping**

A. Filippi and J. Purcell have been working with the Taskforce. A. Filippi said they've been working with NJDEP, updating what NJDEP uses for mapping stormwater and GIS. This may be set up by the end of the year so a volunteer workforce can map infrastructure. There is another project with a consultant to digitize old documents (as-builts, etc.). At this stage, pilot areas are completed, and they are working on getting plans and indexing. A couple hundred plans are already indexed in GIS. Princeton seeks understanding of what infrastructure exists and what areas are served by it; how it can be used to plan for future.

### e. **Stormwater Utility (Sub-Committee)**

J. Purcell stated that there is a list of stakeholders for stormwater utility focus group invitation. There will be two meetings in April for the focus group. E. Treadway (consultant) said that they are working with staff for development of background materials to orient members. The first meeting will focus on current conditions, issues, gaps, expectations, and priorities. The second meeting will focus on impacts to community. Other major element is impervious layer map. Digitizing is in progress in nonresidential portion of town; they are doing a sample of residential.

### f. **Master Plan/Utility Element**

J. Lesko said that update process is more than halfway though. The consultant met with staff recently for the utility element. Subcommittees are looking at different elements, which will lead to the first round of draft elements. There will be 2 or 3 draft elements, which may ultimately lead to planning board adoption in

November. Master Plan examination is going on now. S. Lieberman asked if the focus would be not just on utility element but also land use element. J. Lesko said they are doing the first overhaul in a while, and will tie in those elements. S. Lieberman hoped that Watershed Institute could provide guidance, as it is important to look for non structural ways to address stormwater and flooding issue. M. Pisauro said he would be happy to discuss further.

g. **Storm Water Mitigation Plan (Sub-Committee)**

J. Purcell said that they were supposed to meet with the attorneys yesterday, but that was postponed. J. Purcell said Township may grant variances as long as mitigation can be performed on site. The DEP regulations are not clear; they do not necessarily need mitigation plan in place from municipal standpoint. There is a situation right now where a proposed developments needed mitigation, which they had allowed onsite. Discussion about mitigation plans, preference for uniformity.

h. **Report regarding Sustainable Jersey Water Gold status (Sub-Committee)**

J. Ludmer shared Navigational Path Template, which she will email to all for later discussion. The Subcommittee met and listed issues and actions to take on. The objective was to generate achievable goals for themselves and the municipality; Stormwater mitigation plan was discussed. Some topics included identifying locations for green infrastructure for master plan, standardized rain garden designs, more stringent ordinances, and negotiable timelines. Regarding the stormwater utility, there are five main points for consideration for full committee. The next step is for council to pass resolution in support. J. Ludmer will email the information to all.

VII. **Reports from liaisons**

a. **Princeton Environmental Commission**

C. Smorada gave an update about 17<sup>th</sup> annual stream cleanup, a collaboration with watershed and PEC (<https://thewatershed.doubleknot.com/event/princeton-stream-cleanup-2023/2968617>) at Hilltop Park on April 22. They will be giving out saplings.

They received a memo regarding the removal of existing parking lot with a proposal to build four townhouses. Discussion about the pros and cons of permeable pavement.

b. **Sustainable Princeton**

J. Ludmer reported that there were a number of events coming up, shared a link in the chat: <https://www.sustainableprinceton.org/events/category/events/>

c. **Watershed Institute**

S. Bristol spoke about the mapping workshop for residents for MS4 permit, which is being held at DEP on Thursday May 18, starting at 10am. There will be classroom and discussion time, then opportunity to use tools on cell phones to

learn how to participate. Discussion about tool that A. Filippo had spoken about; limitations and benefits; promotion of event and tool; how other municipalities can get involved.

M. Pisauro suggested for next meeting if inland flood rules could be discussed, should be adopted in May, wants to move through adoption of ordinances as quickly as possible. S. Bristol said that Watershed is happy to participate in master plan work and had forwarded comments.

L. Wilson said input from Watershed on utility element was welcome, nothing to review yet. In a couple months from now, there will be opportunities down the road for substantive input. People should contact J. Lesko for questions about input for now. Secondly, L. Wilson wanted to put in good word for permeable pavement. Maintenance is crucial, but there are different ways of creating it. It is used in truck stops so it can have heavy traffic if designed properly. Further discussion about permeable pavement; danger of developers trying to use throughout entire development; different compaction rates for different purposes.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

At 11:11 a.m. S. Lieberman moved to adjourn the meeting. D. Cohen seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 5, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Jennifer Goodin  
Acting Recording Secretary