



Princeton Environmental Commission - Meeting Minutes
Meeting on Wednesday, 26 April 2023 at 7 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Princeton, NJ 08540

Soos opened the meeting at 7:00 pm on Wednesday 26 April, 2023.

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.

Meeting Attendees: Role	Team Member	Invited	Attended
PEC Chair	Tammy Sands	x	absent
PEC Vice Chair	Anne Soos	x	x host
PEC Commissioner Alt. 1	Chiara Smorada	x	x
PEC Commissioner Alt. 2	Randy Rutberg	x	x
PEC Commissioner	Lisa Marcus Levine	x	x
PEC Commissioner	Fredi Pearlmutter	x	x
PEC Commissioner	Inga Reich	x	x
PEC Commissioner	Abel Smith	x	X Joined at 7:25 pm
PEC Commissioner	Zenon Tech-Czarny	x	x
PEC Board Secretary	Eva Herzog	x	x
Board of Health Liaison	Lind Schwimmer	x	x
Sustainable Princeton	Jenny Ludmer	x	x
Council Liaison	Eve Niedergang	x	x
Public/Guests	Susan Bristol, Watershed	x	x
	Eleni Litt	x	X left at 8:09 pm



1. Approval of Agenda (Soos)

No changes to Agenda.

Moved: Marcus-Levine; Second: Tech-Czarny

→ Unanimously approved

2. Approval of Minutes (Soos)

Minutes of PEC Meeting 22 March 2023 [Minutes_PEC meeting 22 March 2023_draft_final \(princetonnj.gov\)](#)

Moved: Pearlmutter; Second: Tech-Czerny

→ Unanimously approved

3. Public Comment

- Bristol asked if there is adequate involvement of PEC in the Master Plan activities; Tech-Czerny confirmed involvement in respective subcommittee. Bristol asked to invite Watershed for relevant topics ([action item](#))

4. Council Report (Niedergang)

Niedergang provided a brief summary of the Council report from this month:

- Council approved goals for 2023; goals will be brought to PEC for brief discussion during May or June meeting
- Approved various construction projects incl. Hilltop park playground
- Introduced 2023 budget
- Work session to bring back farmers market to Hinds Plaza
- Civil Rights commission gave presentation recommending replacing and amending 'Welcome to Princeton' signs to make it more inclusive and highlight long history of land ownership
- Enforcement of the overnight parking rules in the former borough will start Monday 1 May 2023 with limiting overnight parking 2-6 am; overnight parking permissions can be requested at <https://www.frontlinepss.com/princeton>
- Introducing capital budget at next meeting on May 8th, new projects can be brought forward ([action item](#))

5. Discussions & Decisions & Liaison Reports

5.2 Stream Cleanup 2023 review (Niedergang/Soos)

- Great participation with about 100 people; 722 lbs of trash and 58 lbs of recycling was picked up; there was obvious reduction in plastic bag trash
- Next year need to ensure sufficient overflow parking availability
- Action item for all: keep eye out for places with lots of trash and parking opportunities

5.2. Board of Health (Schwimmer)

- BOH Princeton Health Fare on 5 May 2023 at 4-7 pm at the Princeton Shopping Center
- Public Health Re-accreditation process ongoing
- Community information on advanced care planning, can be found on Princeton Senior Resource Center Website
- Work to provide vaccine access and vaccination opportunities and support on social isolation
- Recognition by Sustainable Jersey with Gold Star in Health and by Quality Institute as 'Healthy Town'



- Niergang asked if BOH was interested in Water quality topic (action item: get back to Smorada); note from Bristol that Water Quality will also be topic of Watershed Webinars incl. NJ American Water:
 - Previous webinar:
<https://thewatershed.doubleknot.com/registration/calendardetail.aspx?activitykey=2972489&orgkey=3916&ReturnURL=/thewatershed.doubleknot.com/app/calendar/month/3916/2023-04-01/3916/0/>
 - Upcoming webinar:
<https://thewatershed.doubleknot.com/registration/calendardetail.aspx?activitykey=2982191&orgkey=3916&ReturnURL=/thewatershed.doubleknot.com/app/calendar/month/3916/2023-05-01/3916/0/>

5.3. Sustainable Princeton (Ludmer)

- Municipality stormwater utility task force met for first time 4/26/23; currently in Phase 1 (design) to see if relevant for Princeton; for further information, see <https://stormwaterutilities.njfuture.org/>
- Municipality awarded Sustainable Jersey Partnership for energy efficiency outreach to community, more details at next meeting; details on SJ-PSEG Partnership: <https://www.sustainablejersey.com/grants/sj-pseg-partnership-program/>
- SHRED Fest was successful with record no. of vehicles participating; pay as you go appears to help more conscious waste handling;
- Earth Day event successfully held
- Sustainable Jersey recertification ongoing, help welcome (action item)
- Upcoming SP Events: <https://www.sustainableprinceton.org/events/category/events/>

5.4. Flood and Storm Water Commission (Smorada -dual member)

- Update from Municipality meeting provided
- Storm water flows mapping to understand existing infrastructure before making new plans
- impervious layer mapping ongoing; note: in land use ordinance, porous pavement considered impervious to determine run-off but green infrastructure if used for storm water management
- Information on importance of maintenance of permeable pavers; Smorada provided further details to interested PEC members; Ludmer shared link with additional information: <https://thewatershed.org/green-infrastructure-maintenance/>

5.5. Planning Board (Tech-Czarney -dual member)

- 13 April 2023 Meeting on 217 Witherspoon project, approved
- Several master plan related meetings and establishment of variety of subcommittees; there will be another open house, details to be confirmed
- Applicant submission to develop Lanwin tract
- Listing of upcoming development plan hearings and dates
- Reminder: Community Science Day at Roger's Refuge Day upcoming 30 April 2023 at 8 am - 12 pm

5.6. Waste Transition Team (Soos)

- Team leans towards drop off pilot program, more details coming soon;
- Next meeting 4/28/23
- Aim to achieve organics recycling in fall 2023

5.7. Recreation/CP South (Pearlmutter)

- Survey of people's wishes: 1.Pickle Ball, 2. Dog Park
- Other interests: improved walkway, landscaping, restrooms, parking, use of turf for cost savings but considered controversial;
- next steps: concept plans followed by open house



5.8. Porchfest (Soos)

- 29 April 2023, 12-5pm, further details on Arts Council website <https://artscouncilofprinceton.org/exhibits-and-events/porchfest/>
- Tree seedlings on Hinds Plaza for anyone interested to help; action item: let Soos know if interested

5.9. Draft Tree Removal-Replacement ordinance review (all)

- Review of comments collected from PEC members during review period
- Soos will forward comments to D. Stockton, Department of Engineering and Infrastructure Operations

5.10. Development Application (Reich/Marcus-Levine):

Major Site Plan Review
Princeton University
Eric and Wendy Schmidt Hall,
Block 45.01 Lot 101
Project No. 20010

- The Team reviewed the PEC memo draft and addressed any remaining comments and edits;
- The final memo can be found on the Princeton Municipality website: [PEC-PU-Schmidt Hall-draft April 11.docx \(princetonnj.gov\)](#)

Motion: Marcus-Levine; Second: Reich
→ Unanimously approved

5.11. Green Development Checklist Recertification (Soos//Ludmer)

- Soos provided some more background on the Green Development Checklist and shared the checklist and an overview list of the 34 projects reviewed by PEC since 2020 with 2 completed projects (to be confirmed)
- Sustainable Jersey confirmed that only projects need to be included that have been reviewed in the past 3 years; for still ongoing projects a short update can be provided only
- PEC members brainstormed and discussed ideas how to facilitate the process of gathering developer feedback, e.g. automated survey pre-/post completion, adopting checklist layout to get unambiguous answers, how to incentivize developers to complete exit checklist
- Need to determine next steps and who takes on the task (action item)
- Tech-Czarny, Marcus-Levine volunteered to meet with Soos to continue the discussion together with Sustainable Princeton and come back with suggestions (action item)

5.4. 7. Adjournment

Motion: Smith; Second: Tech-Czarny
→ Unanimously approved