



**Princeton Environmental Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, 28 June 2023 at 7 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**Princeton, NJ 08540**

Sands started the meeting at 7:10 pm

**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	x
PEC Vice Chair	Anne Soos	x	x
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	absent
PEC Commissioner	Inga Reich	x	x
PEC Commissioner	Abel Smith	x	x
PEC Commissioner	Zenon Tech-Czarny	x	x
PEC Board Secretary	Eva Herzog	x	absent
Board of Health Liaison	George DiFernando	x	x
Sustainable Princeton	Jenny Ludmer	x	x
Council Liaison	Eve Niedergang	x	x
Public/Guests	Gabriel Kotliar Geoffrey Allen	x	x



## Meeting Minutes:

1. **Approval of Agenda** (Sands)  
Motion to approve: Smith; Second: Tech-Czarny → unanimously approved
2. **Approval of Minutes** (Sands)
  - 2.1. 24 May 2023  
Motion to approve: Soos Second: Reich → unanimously approved
3. **Public Comment**  
Geoffrey Allen presented on 'Why Princeton should support the NJ Green Amendment'. A copy of the presentation can be found on the PEC website:  
[https://www.princetonnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13636/NJ-Green-Amendment-Presentation\\_28-June-2023-PDF](https://www.princetonnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13636/NJ-Green-Amendment-Presentation_28-June-2023-PDF)
4. **Council Report** (Niedergang)
  - Informed about the amended version of the Invasive Species Bill being considered in the state of NJ
  - Council recognized organizations in honor of their work in the LGBT space
  - Work in Spring Street Garage starting July 10th and expected to last for 4 months with reduced parking space availability
  - Largest capital budget in Princeton's history passed incl. large proportion to be spent on sewer infrastructure upgrades
5. **Discussions/Decisions & Liaison Reports**
  - 5.1. **Sourland Watershed Map** (Sands)
    - Sourland Conservancy representative expected to join PEC meeting in July
    - Watershed Map will be available as hard copy during PEC meeting in July
    - If anyone has questions, please forward to Tammy to provide these in advance of the meeting (action item)
  - 5.2. **Locations for In-person Meetings** (Sands)
    - July: Mountain Lakes House
    - December: Municipality Building
  - 5.3. **Annual Goals Status & Updates** (All)
    - Master Plan (Tech-Czarny): Subcommittee meetings ongoing and progressing
    - Green House tour (Marcus-Levine): on track; Greenhouse videos are completed; organization of tour ongoing and planned for 30th Sept; video screenings planned on 2 occasions incl. the Garden Theater; effective collaboration with Sustainable Princeton
    - Open Space: ERI delayed, no further updates
      - Community Science Day (Tech-Czarny/Reich): will identify potential dates for fall with partners
      - Invasive of the quarter (Soos): on track; high quality invasive of the season postings provided for website and newsletter



- Microforest (Sands/Rutberg): Grant due July 13th with planting start planned to spring 2024; Princeton Middle School project will serve as prototype;
- Climate Justice (Sands; Smith): some delays in basin evaluation; dependent on movement by PHA ;
- Community energy (Soos/SP): Sustainable Princeton (SP) to be invited to present in September to provide status update
- Water quality (Smorada): no updates for date of tour; survey questions will be forwarded (action item)
- Long-term goal and white paper (Sands): ongoing

**5.4. Green Development Checklist (Soos)**

- Submission to Sustainable Jersey got approved
- Revised Green Development Checklist drafted by subteam for review by the Commission

**5.5. Board of Health (BOH Representative DiFernando)**

- New modified COVID-19 booster shot will become available, one shot only; focus to target >65 yrs population;
- Reaccreditation efforts ongoing
- Artificial turf discussion with members suggesting access to recreational activities needs to be balanced vs concerns about artificial turf
- Sands highlighted that PEC's position on artificial turf has not changed and efforts focus on updating the white paper with more current information

**5.6. Sustainable Princeton (Ludmer)**

- Municipalities Sustainable Jersey's PST partnership with a small grant supporting outreach to residents, looking to identify one person having participated in energy efficiency programs - please reach out if you are or know someone who would be interested (action item)
- Ask to forward Trees for School Grant details so that facilities department can be engaged early as they have concerns relating to leaf cleanup (action item)

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

- Two apps being developed as mapping tools, previously mapping stormwater inlets and current mapping focusing on underground infrastructure
- Sands asked PEC to review Floodplain ordinance and pass any comments to Smorada (action item)

**5.8. Planning Board (Tech-Czarny -dual member)**

- 1 June 2023 meeting included discussion of conceptual plan for 364 and 366 Nassau street courtesy review of project next to the Whole Earth Center
- 15 June 2023 meeting discussing minor applications incl Princeton University Tiger labs and signage change
- Master Plan public meeting coming up
- Lanwin application discussion planned for meeting on 6 July 2023; Sands highlighted that PEC does not recommend building on the ridge as per most recent PEC memo

**5.9. Waste Transition Team (Soos)**



- Grant submitted to begin organic food scraps collection in Sept/Oct '23 and council approved the two kick-off sites

**5.10. Recreation/CP South (Sands)**

- Sands attended the meeting on behalf of PEC
- Survey results have come in and majority seems to prefer Plan A which is closer to current look; people asked for bigger dog parks and more parking
- Sands communicated PECs recommendations to
  - ensure storm water management with an understory and native vegetation
  - implement multi-use courts to reduce land use

**5.11. Any Other Business (All)**

None

**5.12. Development Plan (Marcus Levine/Reich)**

375-377 Terhune

RB Homes, Major Site Plan with variances - multi-family buildings

Block 7401, Lots 4.01 & 4.02, Zone AH-7

- PEC members reviewed and jointly edited the PEC memo for the above mentioned development plan
- Final memo can be found on the PEC website:  
<https://www.princetonnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13637/Princeton-Environmental-Commission-Memo-Regarding-RB-Homes-Inc-375-377-Terhune-Road-Major-Site-Plan-with-Variations-PDF>
- Motion to approve: Smith; PEC unanimously approved final version

**6. Adjournment**

Sands adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm

Motion to approve: Soos; second: Marcus-Levine;