



**Princeton Environmental Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, 26 July 2023 at 7 p.m.**  
**In Person Meeting held at**  
**Mountain Lakes House, 57 Mountain Ave, Princeton, NJ 08540**

Sands started the meeting at 7:05 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	Joined 7:30pm
PEC Commissioner Alt. 2	Randy Rutberg	x	absent
PEC Commissioner	Lisa Marcus Levine	x	x
PEC Commissioner	Fredi Pearlmutter	x	x
PEC Commissioner	Inga Reich	x	absent
PEC Commissioner	Abel Smith	x	x
PEC Commissioner	Zenon Tech-Czarny	x	x
PEC Board Secretary	Eva Herzog	x	x
Board of Health Liaison	n/a	x	absent
Sustainable Princeton	Jenny Ludmer, Christine Symington	x	x
Council Liaison	Eve Niedergang	x	x
Public/Guests	Cindy Taylor (Open Space Coordinator)	x	x



## Meeting Minutes:

### 1. **Approval of Agenda** (Sands)

Change to Agenda: Start with review of the Sourlands Watershed Map

Motion to approve: Smith; Second: Tech-Czarny → unanimously approved

### 2. **Approval of Minutes** (Sands)

#### 2.1. 28 June 2023

Motion to approve: Tech-Czarny Second: Soos → unanimously approved

### 3. **Public Comment**

None

### 4. **Sourland Watershed Map** (Kevin Burkman, GIS Analyst, Sourland Conservancy/Sands)

- DEP Trenton employee; Watersheds of Sourland Mountain prepared pro bono for Sourland Conservancy
- Burkman explained the structure and meaning of the map and important natural areas, specifically related to water
- Map highlights interconnection of the individual watersheds around the Sourland mountains
- Map image (high resolution) will be placed on PEC website to be available for public viewing (action item); public distribution is encouraged by Burke
- Tech-Czarny suggested connection with other municipalities within watershed area would be beneficial with regards to stormwater management; Sands stated that The Watershed Institute was discussing this in the past; Niedergang to inquire about the status.

### 5. **Council Report** (Niedergang)

- Farewell to Taylor who will take on a new position with Mercer county; recruitment for replacement and transition (incl. ERI) ongoing
- Municipality announced retirements of two colleagues, i.e. Delores Williams (Municipal Clerk) - successor D. Harris, and Christina Rothman-Iliff (Call Center Manager);
- Working on new outdoor dining regulations to enable restaurants using new sidewalk space and be responsible stewards
- Special improvement district completed first year and got next year's budget approved
- Council passed ordinance to establish how the Lanwin property will be managed
- Presentation to council on health benefits of passive recreation; Soos suggested municipality to consider more dedicated space for community gardening
- Work ongoing regarding ordinance regarding motorized bikes and scooters on sidewalks
- Soos asked about road safety of Wiggins Road which Niedergang will follow up on (action item)



- Sands asked about recently communicated Green Team – Ludmer clarified that Green Team introduced as part of Sustainable Jersey resolution, covering members embedded across the multiple sustainability initiatives active within municipality's boards, commissions and committees; Tech-Czarny expressed that this is not Sustainable Jersey's intent of organizing a green team as the team should consist of public members, like commissioners from PEC; Niedergang asked if she could meet with Tech-Czarny to discuss this.

## **6. Discussions/Decisions & Liaison Reports**

### **6.1. Annual Goals Status & Updates (All)**

- Water quality (Smorada): no updates, awaiting feedback regarding tour.
- Community Energy (Soos): asked about Energy Aggregation; Symington informed that next option in spring
- Master Plan (Tech-Czarny): no updates
- Green House Tour (Marcus-Levine, Smith): final approval for videos by municipal lawyers pending; Public video screening planned for Sat Sept 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in Princeton Public Library, private screening hosted by Sustainable Princeton on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept, 5-7pm at Monument Hall, Princeton NJ. Live tour of four locations planned for Sept 30<sup>th</sup> incl. preregistration and map incl points of interest and 2 people helping to guide public per house.
- Microforest (Sands): grant application submitted; plant selection will occur only after funding is confirmed. Sands asked to think about ideas for understory which is not covered by the grant; Ludmer clarified that saplings are included and planting planned for spring; Soos suggested that donations from master gardeners may be available in spring as well as to ask STC.

### **6.2. Green Development Checklist (Soos)**

- Soos shared copies of proposed new Green Development Checklist drafted together with Tech-Czarny and Marcus-Levine aiming at a shorter, focused list that is easier to fill out;
- Request for PEC members to review and provide feedback, Soos will share electronic version for commenting tomorrow July 27<sup>th</sup> with feedback due on Wed Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> (action items) – post-meeting note: draft shared;
- Plan to share draft with Lesko and Weissman Friday Aug 4<sup>th</sup> to get their feedback

### **6.3. Board of Health (BOH Representative absent)**

- No update

### **6.4. Sustainable Princeton (Ludmer)**

- Sustainable Jersey certification submission due July 27<sup>th</sup>; goal to submit 650 points achieved
- Alex Dill joined as new team member
- Workshop and family day planned at Watershed with Spanish speaking landscapers on Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>;



- Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) NJ energy outreach project for residents to increase their energy efficiency at home, promoting online tool available on PSE&G website;
- Symington provided update on their work on the Community solar project incl. plans for consolidated billing; Tech-Czarny asked to encourage initiatives to encourage heat pumps instead of gas furnaces;

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

- Flood plan ordinance moving forward;
- Flow mapping ongoing, respective apps ready for use
- Storm water mitigation plan remains under review
- Rain garden design plans to become available for residents in collaboration with Sustainable Princeton and Engineering Department providing sample soil scenario; Question raised if certification of rain gardens is mandatory by municipality (action item)

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

- Lanwin application voting postponed

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

- No update

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

- Consultant presented 4 plans; favored plan did not address environmental concerns raised; major changes included substantial increased parking despite the municipality's position to discourage car use in favor of bikes and walking; concern that existing trees may be affected; Plan A will be reconsidered which was preferred by public voting;
- PEC members encouraged to participate in Sept 28<sup>th</sup> Board of Park and Recreation meeting at 7pm, followed by Council meeting on Oct 9<sup>th</sup> and possibility for public commenting and written comments to raise environmental concerns (action item); plans are available on the Recreation Department website:  
<https://princeton.civilspace.io/en/projects/community-park-south-master-plan>

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

None

**7. Adjournment**

Sands adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm

Motion to approve: Tech-Czarny; second: Smith