



Municipality of Princeton

*Witherspoon Hall
400 Witherspoon Street
Princeton, NJ 08540-3496*

**ENGINEERING AND INFRASTRUCTURE
OPERATIONS**

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the
PRINCETON FLOOD AND STORMWATER COMMISSION**

August 5, 2022

The meeting of the Princeton Flood and Stormwater Commission was convened at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 5, 2022 via Virtual Meeting/Zoom Conference. J. Purcell 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, Chair; Daniel Van Abs; Louise Wilson;
Karen Zemble, Princeton Environmental Commission Liaison

Princeton Engineering:

Andrew Filippi, Sewer Engineer; Melissa Kampf, Project Manager;
James Purcell, Assistant Engineer;
Deanna Stockton, Deputy Administrator/Municipal Engineer;
Janice Most, Recording Secretary
Absent: Ian Baker, Construction Project Engineer

Watershed Institute:

Sophie Glovier; Mike Pisauro (arrived 10:35 a.m.)

Sustainable Princeton:

Jenny Ludmer
Absent: Christine Symington

Public: Harrison; Jane; Paul Schorr

II. Approval of Agenda

D. Cohen moved to approve the August 5, 2022 Agenda. L. Wilson seconded.
The Motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of July 1, 2022 Minutes

D. Van Abs moved to approve the July 1, 2022 Minutes as presented.
D. Cohen seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Discussions and Decisions

Municipal Update

D. Stockton introduced Melissa Kampf, Project Manager who will be working with stormwater management permitting to keep up to date with requirements. M. Kampf provided background on her education and experience.

D. Stockton stated that municipal yard inspection continues for residential improvements; staff attended Community Night Out – free tree saplings were distributed, there was an EnviroScape watershed display, literature on rain gardens was available.

D. Cohen stated the Mayor and Council are concerned for residents impacted by private property tree clearing and how these removal actions impact local stormwater flow patterns..

Discussion: tree absorption of stormwater; did Environmental Commission work on Ordinance as Shade Tree Commission did; check to see if other Municipalities have an Ordinance.

S. Glovier will follow up with M. Pisauro to see if other towns are doing stormwater reviews; need to make residents think twice before removing large trees and educate on importance of replanting;

L. Wilson stated she is personally aware of trees not being replanted as required;

J. Purcell stated that the Municipal Arborist is constantly and closely working with property owners who remove trees about the importance replanting, he gave specifics of a most recent issue brought up to Council for multiple removals at a specific property;

Tree removal can be regulated as is done with impervious coverage; hard to quantify gallons of water loss with a tree removal; approximately 60 tree removal applications are submitted per month with the municipality and an individual application can have multiple removals of both live, diseased, and dead trees; trees take up water but also intercept water; there is a separate tree removal application for tree removals of more than five tree..

All will continue to collect information and the topic will be on the next Agenda.

2022 FSWC Goals and Priorities

Nothing to report.

Redevelopment Stormwater Ordinance and Updates

Nothing to report.

Stormwater Flows Mapping

A. Filippi stated the Consultant continues review of maps and field survey of Terhune and Guyot areas; the University continues efforts on high water mark system;

S. Glovier stated that the summer students did a presentation this week of field verification of stormwater outlets and rain gardens stormwater issues, she will forward the presentation.

Stormwater Utility (Sub-Committee)

A. Filippi stated that there is a discrepancy at the DEP on guidance documents and requirements.

Discussion: draft list of SWAC Committee to see who represents organizations; DEP opening grant program up to \$100,000.00 for single Municipality stormwater mitigation, there will be a presentation on specifics on August 10, 2022; letter of intent is due on August 24, 2022; this will fund portions of the stormwater study; funding for regional utility studies is available.

Master Plan/Utility Element

Nothing to report. Focus at the September/October meeting; invite Justin to meeting.

Stormwater Mitigation Plan

D. Van Abs stated the Committee is focusing on long term objectives; comments are due by August 12 from Committee Members then will be presented to the Commission at the September meeting.

VI. Reports from Liaisons

Princeton Environmental Commission

Nothing to report.

Sustainable Princeton

J. Ludmer explained the Adopt a Drain program.

Discussion: Municipality needs to set up mapping; there is an annual fee that is covered the first year, then the Municipality pays approximately \$2,100 annually which is about 0.07 cents per resident; in Berkeley Heights approximately 6-7 % of the population is participating; residents sign up to adopt a drain and there is a map that shows the adopted drains; costs will need Mayor and Council approval; how many drains are there in Princeton; can residents adopt more than one drain; how does it help or impede DPW duties; need to manage volunteers enrolled in the program; DPW inspects all storm drains annually; program gives community involvement and awareness; there are difference issues in different areas of town, e.g., leaves/trash; can be integrated into the schools; what is the correlation of clogged drains and leaf and brush; DPW is working to revise the leaf and brush policies; it was determined during discussion that that are approximately 3,500 inlets that are mapped in the Municipality.

S. Lieberman moved to endorse the Adopt a Drain program as presented by Sustainable Princeton including referral to the Infrastructure and Operations Committee.

L. Wilson seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

D. Van Abs stated this can be a regional concept and encouragement can be made to the Watershed Institute and other Municipalities to work cooperatively on this type of program including funding.

D. Stockton will bring the issue before the Infrastructure and Operations Committee.

VII. Adjournment

At 10:50 a.m. S. Sillars moved to adjourn the meeting. D. Cohen seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday September 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. via Virtual Meeting/Zoom.

Janice Most
Recording Secretary

Adopted: September 9, 2022