



Princeton Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, 27 Sep 2023 at 7 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Sands opened the meeting at 7:00 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	7:50 pm
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
PEC Commissioner	Zenon Tech-Czarny	x	x
PEC Board Secretary	Eva Herzog	x	absent
Board of Health Liaison		x	
Sustainable Princeton	Jenny Ludmer	x	x
Council Liaison	Eve Niedergang	x	x
Public/Guests	Lindsay Kayman, Green Amendment Representative	x	7:20 pm



1. Approval of Agenda (Sands)

Motion to approve: Soos; Second: Marcus-Levine

→ Unanimously approved

2. Approval of Minutes (Sands)

2.1. 26 July 2023

Motion to approve: Marcus-Levine; Second: Smith

3. Public Comment

none

4. Council Report (Niedergang)

- Updated floodplain management regulations including expansion; kudos to Engineering Department
- Council work session on e-bikes/e-scooters and which regulations should be in place and how the original ordinance could be improved; request to let Niedergang come forward with any ideas/opinions in this regard (action item); initial ordinance included total ban of e-devices on sidewalks but aim to achieve a more nuanced approach referencing Princeton University's example;
- Princeton's credit rating remains AAA
- Question if PEC recommends the Green Amendment to the state constitution to be taken up by the Council; Sands and tech-Czerny confirm that PEC would support and endorse this recommendation; letter of support will be prepared (action item); Information on Green Amendment can be found on the web (can use keyword 'Maya van Rossum')

Motion to approve PEC endorsement Green Amendment: Tech-Czarny; Second: Soos;

→ Unanimously approved

5. Discussions/Decisions & Liaison Reports

5.1. Annual Goals Status (All)

- Sands highlighted and thanked everyone involved in the Greenhouse Tour
- Green House Tour (Marcus-Levine, Smith):



- Green House Tour (Marcus-Levine, Smith): pre-screening was very well attended and ticket sale for Tour going very well; public screening planned for Sat 30 Sept at Public Library; Sands suggested a lessons learned during PEC October meeting
- Water quality (Smorada): Plan to attend two Wastewater treatment tours, will provide additional formation when available; proposals for regulation of 6 different PFAS compounds, further updates will be provided;
- Long-term goal (Sands): White paper goal will not be fulfilled this year as it will be submitted for publishing, therefore not available for PEC

5.2. Goals to Consider for 2024 (All)

- Sands informed PEC that her term will end 2023 so she will not stand as Chair in 2024 and will not be renewing her term
- Sands suggested to start thinking about goals for 2024; proposed to continue and be carried over Microforest project to 2024 as recent grant submission was not awarded to Princeton Public Schools; Ludmer mentioned Master Gardeners organization that may be able to support; Rutberg interested in getting space from High School Senior Parking lot space;
- Techn-Czarny and Soos suggested goal to create glossary and guide related to Green Development Checklist
- Niedergang: suggested to move forward with sustainable landscaping; Sands agreed but to include other landscaping elements beyond equipment such as regulation of fertilizer and pesticide use, native plants and trees

5.3. Green Development Checklist (Soos)

- PEC needs to approve the final version 9 of the Checklist shared by Soos, will then be passed on to Council to become an ordinance (expected in 2024)

Motion to approve: Marcus-Levine; Second: Tech-Czarny

5.4. Board of Health (BOH Representative)

No updates

5.5. Sustainable Princeton (Ludmer)

- Good showing at 4th annual EV Ride&Drive event

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

- Stormwater mapping still ongoing, plan to complete by end of 2023
- Stormwater utility expected to go through
- Tree removal and placement ordinance still being reviewed
- Confirmed that Rain gardens are inspected by municipality

5.7. Planning Board (Tech-Czarny -dual member)



- 7 Sep meeting reviewing minor subdivision 60 Lafayette Court;
- 2 Nov Lanwin review with final meeting in December
- 5 Oct hearing of Galaxy Tile; Tech-Czarny will not be present at meeting but other PEC could join if interested
- New Master Plan draft made available; PEC will be informed as soon as the date has been confirmed for Planning Board review where comments can be made (action item)

5.8. Recreation/CP South (Pearlmutter)

- 18 Oct Steering committee meeting; concerns about additional parking space, turf use and other details; once intended changes are known, Pearlmutter will share with PEC (action item)
- Question on use of dog park size and use as current usage unclear; Niedergang confirmed public appreciation;

5.9. Development Plan (Marcus Levine/Reich)

Galaxy Tile – 820 State Road
Major Site Plan with Variances
Block 805, Lot 4
Zone S-2

PEC jointly reviewed and edited the memo on the above referenced development plan; Reich to finalize and forward to Herzog for submission;

Copy of the memo can be found on the PEC website:

<https://www.princetonnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14873/Princeton-Environmental-Commission-Memo-regarding-Galaxy-Tile-820-State-Road-PDF>

5.10. Any Other Business (All)

- Soos updated that the Waste transition committee met regarding food scraps program and ability to sign up for the lottery;
- Tech-Czarny ANJEC conference taking place on Friday 13 Oct at Mercer Community College <https://anjec.org/environmental-congress-2/>; Sands will be involved in moderating workshop on the understanding of injustices faced by Indigenous communities and their native lands;
- Rutberg asked about 2024 PEC funding and Sands confirmed full funding will be available as PEC not renewing memberships that are not being utilized or members do not find benefit in

6. Adjournment

Motion to approve: Tech-Czarny