



Princeton Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, 25 Oct 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	absent
PEC Commissioner Alt. 2	Randy Rutberg	x	Joined at 7:27pm
PEC Commissioner	Lisa Marcus Levine	x	x
PEC Commissioner	Fredi Pearlmutter	x	x
PEC Commissioner	Inga Reich	x	x
PEC Commissioner	Abel Smith	x	Joined at 7:19pm
PEC Commissioner	Zenon Tech-Czarny	x	x
PEC Board Secretary	Eva Herzog	x	absent
Board of Health Liaison		x	absent
Sustainable Princeton	Jenny Ludmer; Christine Symington	x	x
Council Liaison	Eve Niedergang	x	x
Public/Guests	John Jackson, Sylvia Debenederrri	x	x



1. Approval of Agenda (Sands)

Addition of Green Amendment Resolution and ANJEC's suggested Resolutions for Environmental Commissions

Motion to approve amendment to agenda: Soos; Second: Pearlmutter

→ Unanimously approved

2. Approval of Minutes (Sands)

2.1. 27 Sept 2023

Motion to approve: Soos; Second: Reich

→ Unanimously approved

3. Public Comment

No comments

4. Council Report (Niedergang)

- Municipality looking to fill position of open space manager to replace Cindy Taylor
- Council approved moving to phase 2 of stormwater utility study
- Report on results of road conditions assessment and support data driven decision which roads need assistance, 90% of roads are in good to excellent conditions
- Introduction of ordinances to be heard at upcoming meeting including amended stormwater ordinance as required by the state which includes salt storage regulation
- River road dumping clear up to be completed soon and hope to get insurance reimbursement
- Green Development checklist remains under review; Sands added that Green Team of another municipality has asked if checklist could be shared and Soos, Marcus-Levine and Tech-Czarny agree that it is ok but highlight it has not yet been approved.

Motion to approve sharing the checklist: Soos Second: Tech-Czarny → Unanimously approved

- Sands asked where we stand with ERI and if PEC can provide any help; Niedergang will follow up (action item)



5. Discussions/Decisions & Liaison Reports

5.1. Annual Goals Status (All)

Master Plan:

- Question from Sands if there is anything PEC can or should do? Tech-Czarny updated that full Master Plan to be released within next couple of days and expected to be approved before end of the year. One last chance to provide feedback and incorporate PEC comments

Site Plans:

- Sands appreciated work by PEC commissioners
- Soos updated that the new Apartment building at Princeton Community Village which PEC reviewed 3 years ago has now been completed and site could now be visited;

Open Space:

- Reich informed that late september would be best timing for birding events at Roger's Refuge; but several birding events taken place across Princeton Open Space sites; Tech-Czarny suggested next year

Microforest:

- Smorada and Rutberg will co-lead this project going forward, intention to continue the project

Community Energy:

- Presentation to follow during this meeting

Water quality:

- Sands passed on question from Smorada if PEC still interested in touring wastewater treatment plant; Niedergang suggested Stonybrook for waste water plant visit; Soos recommended visits as highly interesting; several PEC members showed interest. Niedergang will follow up and cc Smorada (Action item)
- Sands passed on question from Smorada if PEC still interested in touring the Princeton University Campus; suggestion to wait until East Campus geothermal installation completed, target spring 2024

5.2. Green House Tour: Lessons Learned (Marcus Levine/Smith)

- Great experience and success
- Overestimation of how many people comfortably fit into show houses, compensated by no-shows
- Enthusiasm to do it again; expecting lower workload as templates now already exist; adding ADA or apartment would be ideal
- Light pollution could be added as additional topic
- Soos suggested to schedule specific times also for Garden tours; Marcus-Levine also brought up option of having Gardens as separate tour/event;
- Smith highlighted workload and agreement that more than one tour per year not feasible

5.3. Board of Health (no BOH Representative present)

No updates



5.4. Sustainable Princeton (Ludmer)

- Successful annual fundraiser
- Successful SHRED fest conducted with municipality
- Princeton Adult School partnership events upcoming and possibility to participate

5.4.1. Community Solar Presentation

- Symington presented a slide deck on Community Solar followed by Q&A; file can be found here <https://www.princetonnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15088/Community-Solar--PDF>

5.5. Flood and Storm Water Commission (Sands based on report from Smorada)

- Concern raised by West Windsor resident about Stony Brook flooding related spills leading to downstream flooding risk after severe storms; municipal engineers are pushing FEMA to allow remapping of Stony Brook and other streams
- Educational efforts and events planned; PEC could join and Sands further supports partnering (e.g. with regards to rain gardens)
- Community rating system paper completed as part of national flood insurance system by FEMA
- Flood plain management ordinance has been adopted
- DEP is still reviewing the model tree removal ordinance

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

- Oct 19th meeting on Master Plan and goals of plan elements, presentations are available on their website
- Nov 2 schedule to review Lanwin development plan
- Nov 9 second hearing of Master Plan; Tech-Czarny intends to participate in meeting and will inform/delegate in case of any changes.

5.7. Recreation/CP South (Pearlmutter)

- Narrowed down to 2 proposed designs (Plan A and B), concept plans only which will need to be approved for funding
 - Plan A: Tennis courts to remain but rebuilt, pickleball Courts to be moved, no new parking provided; dog park the remain
 - Plan B: all tennis and pickleball courts to be moved along Route 206 and addition of new parking spaces;
 - Environmental concern about trees that would have to be removed as part of Plan B and recommendation from expert arborist not to take them down so that the feeling is that Plan B is not feasible
- Recreation Department meeting planned for Oct 26th to review plans and agree on concept plan for council submission; recommendation by Sands for Pearlmutter to be present at the meeting as PEC voice (action item)

5.8. Any Other Business (All)



- Green Amendment Resolution shared with PEC commissioners for commenting; PEC members discussed and aligned on edits and amended wording

Motion to approve to send amended version to Mayor council: Soos; Second: Tech-Czarny

- ANJEC request to Environmental Commissions to pass resolutions for the 'protect open space' and 'hazardous site clean-up' funding and extending funds in support of public transport within the space
 - Sands would consider resolutions in line with PEC's objectives and suggests recommendation to Mayor council
 - Tech-Czarny abstains from voting due to conflict of interest

Motion to draft up resolutions: Marcus-Levine; Second: Soos; → unanimously approved

- Note from Rutberg about costs and challenges of Dinky use and commuter parking at Alexander Road; Niedergang suggested to communicate concerns further; Tech-Czarny also suggested to contact 'Friends of the Dinky' to learn more;
- Soos updated on the Food scraps program which should start up any day
- Sands reminded everyone that Tech-Czarny and Sands will not continue their appointments next year and asked everyone to think about or propose new Vice Chair and Planning Board Liaison (action item)

6. Adjournment

Motion to approve: Marcus-Levine