



Municipality of Princeton

*Witherspoon Hall
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**ENGINEERING AND INFRASTRUCTURE
OPERATIONS**

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

February 3, 2023

The meeting of the Princeton Flood and Stormwater Commission was convened at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 3, 2023 via Virtual Meeting/Zoom Conference. B. Vadnais 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; Tammy Sands; Scott Sillars; Barbara Vadnais, Chair (left at 11:00 a.m.); Daniel Van Abs; Louise Wilson

Absent:

Princeton Engineering:

Andrew Filippi, Sewer Engineer; James Purcell, Assistant Engineer; Deanna Stockton, Deputy Administrator/Municipal Engineer (in 10:20 a.m.); Janice Most, Recording Secretary

Absent: Ian Baker, Construction Project Engineer

Environmental Commission

Chiara Smorada

Sustainable Princeton:

Jenny Ludmer

Absent: Christine Symington

Watershed Institute:

Susan Bristol; Mike Pisauro

Absent: Sophie Glovier

Flood and Stormwater Commission

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

February 3, 2023

Public:

Susan Bristol, Municipal Policy Specialist/Watershed Institute; Eleni Litt, West Windsor Resident/Rutgers Environmental Steward; Paul Shorr; Harrison Uhul

II. Approval of Agenda

S. Lieberman moved to approve the Agenda as presented. D. Cohen seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of December 2, 2022 Minutes

S. Sillars moved to approve the December 2, 2022 Minutes as presented. D. Cohen seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

IV. 2023 Flood and Stormwater Commission

B. Vadnais stated that the Commission has a new Environmental Commission Member – Chiara Smorada, who provided a brief background of her education.

Each Member provided a brief individual background.

D. Cohen stated that B. Vadnais wished to step down as Chair.

D. Cohen nominated S. Lieberman as Chair. L. Wilson seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment

P. Shorr requested status of Harry’s Brook work.

J. Purcell stated that the Consultant completed all analysis to meet with FEMA and will work through the Consultant for Region 2 [Michael Baker International] who is having difficulties getting in touch with other entities to get responses.

Harrison – stated, via chat, that his house, located in West Windsor, floods when Stony Brook overflows at the canal levy. J. Purcell stated that he and Harrison have been in communication since Hurricane Ida and gave brief details of Harrison’s property and the flooding.

Eleni Litt, West Windsor gave a brief background and stated she is participating in the meeting with interest in storm water issues.

VI. Discussions and Decisions

Municipal Update

D. Cohen stated that the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee is interested in cross Committee activity, such as: interspersing street trees with parking spaces in some locations around town to free up bike lanes, improve storm water management and increase traffic calming.

Committees considered are Flood and Stormwater, Environmental Commission and Shade Tree Commission. D. Cohen has reached out to Mayor Freda and Council Person E. Niedergang and other Council Liaisons to see if there is interest.

Discussion: Flood and Stormwater Members are interested; expansion of road width in some parts of town; can “jog” roadways in some areas - as an example, Jefferson Road – the current bump outs at cross walks on roads where bikes do not need a lane, just travel lane, can still be a way to get more street trees and traffic calming in addition to parking; this would have implications to the Master Plan; can be problematic with people that do not pay attention, especially with cell phone use; expanding roads is contrary to conventional thinking.

T. Sands stated the Environmental Commission is currently involved in projects and she has to see what capacity there is for support; with Flood and Stormwater support D. Cohen will invite a Representative from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee to the March or April meeting.

S. Lieberman mentioned the concept of “Circuit” – electric vehicles (with ads) that give free rides – it seems to be working well in other States and Communities -he suggested someone from the Municipality reach out to see what it entails; D. Cohen stated this would fall under the purview of the Transit Committee.

D. Stockton stated that the Engineering Department is working through priorities and goals and any inner Board/Commission discussion and review of trees, streets and other items should be put in writing and to not move ahead until the priorities and goals are set. The Commission agreed.

J. Purcell stated that inlets are being cleaned and culvert maintenance is taking place; there are six culverts needing replacement.

Discussion: size of each culvert; environmental permits; ecological connectivity; consultant proposals.

Floodplain Management Ordinance

J. Purcell stated that a meeting took place with FEMA and the NJDEP where Princeton stated the case of the Draft Model Code Ordinance stating how the Model is not enforceable. Both will take the Princeton proposal under review; our legal team is preparing a final document.

Discussion: adopt an Ordinance that can be enforced without FEMA issues; change definition to 0.2% flood elevation which will need a memo in support from the FSWC to Mayor and Council; J. Purcell will prepare memo for the next meeting for review.

Stormwater Flows Mapping

A. Filippi stated that the Consultant has been scanning all maps and history of the Municipality and putting into GIS; creating an infrastructure GIS and digitizing impervious surfaces mapping.

Discussion: data being used; difference of watershed impervious surface.

Stormwater Utility (Sub-Committee)

A. Filippi stated that the stormwater utility work conducted by staff is complete; work continues with the Consultant on finalizing a list for stormwater utility Advisory Committee.

Discussion: desire of stormwater utility; concerns of having the utility; purpose of utility.

A. Filippi stated that reporting of Phase I and Phase II would have FSWC involvement citing views on whether the Municipality should move onto Phase II and beyond and reporting to Mayor and Council of the feasibility of the utility.

A. Filippi stated the Phases: Phase I data collection; Phase II financial feasibility; Phase III planning and implementation and writing rules and Ordinance; Phase IV assisting with implementation of utility. He also stated that after each phase FSWC would need to report to Mayor and Council for approval to move to the next phase; there will also be an advisory committee involved in each phase which would include FSWC representatives who would report back to the full Committee.

D. Stockton stated that this will be an apolitical group of people; are going to be potential rate payers; in addition to this Committee looking at religious organizations and schools, entities exempt from paying taxes but will not be exempt from paying this fee; the Committee will be finalized within a few weeks.

A. Filippi will forward a summary of the data collection and most important findings from Phase I to the FSW Members.

Master Plan/Utility Element

L. Wilson stated the guidance document for the updated utility element that the Committee prepared has been forwarded to the Planning Director who forwarded it to the Consultant.

Discussion: meetings with staff will be scheduled for input of each element of the Master Plan; meetings will take place in the next few weeks; FSWC subcommittee responsible for utility element will get flood stormwater objectives; (this week) updated work plan from the Consultant laying out the timeline; when the utility is approved it will be made public.

Stormwater Mitigation Plan

A. Filippi stated that FSW has been completed and sent to the Attorney for review.

VII. Reports from Liaisons

Princeton Environmental Commission

T. Sands stated that the Commission is working on Annual Goals for 2023; one goal includes the environmental justice project at the Redding Circle retention basin. She also stated that the individual residential plan on Oak Drive originally was a sub-division and now is a single home.

Discussion: J. Purcell stated the details of the construction.

T. Sands further stated that reviews by the Environmental Commission for the Planning/Zoning Boards will also be forwarded to the FSWC for informational purposes.

Sustainable Princeton

J. Ludmer presented a slide presentation: Sustainable Jersey

Discussion: what is the benefit to Princeton by participating in the tier points; impervious coverage assessment areas; this project is similar to the Watershed Report; mitigation plan identifies areas for stormwater mitigation projects; differences of green infrastructure

There was consensus that a Sub-Committee be formed to review the actions of the Sustainable Jersey plan. Members interested: D. Cohen, M. Pisauro, S. Sillars, D. Van Abs, L. Wilson

Watershed Institute

M. Pisauro stated the Institute is working with Stony Brook Members on a regional approach to permitting for an end of February meeting; the Watershed Conference is scheduled for February 10 and 17 with emphasis on the MS4 permit and regional approaches.

Discussion: differences of the Municipal permit; requirement for towns to develop Watershed Improvement Plan; total maximum daily load plans and addressing impaired water and devising a plan to reduce water pollution; understand the maximize opportunities outside of the Municipality; every Municipality is required to have the permit as part of the Federal Clean Water Act.

VIII. Adjournment

At 11:40 a.m. L. Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting. S. Lieberman seconded.
The Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. via Virtual Meeting/Zoom.

Janice Most
Recording Secretary

Adopted: