

WWT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

May 8, 2025

The May 2025 meeting of the WWT Environmental Commission was held on Thursday, May 8, 2025 via Zoom with Ephraim Buhks calling the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law, a notice of this meeting's date, time, place and agenda was mailed to the news media, posted on the Township bulletin board, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Members: E. Buhks; E. Gordon; L. Katz; I. Singh;
Liaison: F. Guzik Advisor: D. Parris; P. Gupta Council Liaison: Andrea Mandel
Guests: D. Dobromilski, Consultant S. Kaur, WWT Resident
A. Stanislaw, WWT Landscape Architect

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 2024 L. Katz motioned; I. Singh seconded;
Minutes were approved as presented.

CONTINUING BUSINESS: Project Review/Update

Solar - Community Update – L. Katz stated he had no update to report at this time.

Planning Board – A. Baig reported the PB held two public hearings at the April 2, 2025 meeting to adopt an Amendment to the Land Use Plan Element and an Amendment to the Princeton Junction Redevelopment Plan of the Township Master Plan. The Land Use Plan Amendment concentrates on a small part of the township, specifically near Princeton Hightstown Road and Wallace Road, consisting of the former bus depot site. The amendment ensures consistency between the Townships 2020 Land Use Plan Element and a new redevelopment plan prepared for the site. The Princeton Junction Redevelopment Plan amendment will keep the RP-9 district intact while changing the permitted uses. The goal is to convert the bus depot site into an area that would better serve the public, consisting of commuter parking for the Princeton Junction Train Station, which can be utilized at alternative times for community functions and allowing better pedestrian access for crossing the train tracks.

Township Council Update – E. Buhks stated that A. Mandel had a conflict and was unable to attend the meeting.

Landscape & Fire Prevention – E. Buhks stated that the Township Fire Chief posted a memo on the township website regarding the use of landscape materials, specifically regarding the regulations of mulch and combustible materials being kept 18 inches away from the walls of buildings. I. Singh shared a presentation on the flyer he created on Fire Prevention Planning for NJ residents. The flyer shows actions that residents can take on existing construction. These include avoiding flammable mulch within 18 inches of homes, upgrading to ember-resistant vents and fire-resistant doors and using fire-resistant siding when replacing old materials. This flyer can be made available at various events as well as posted on the EC website for anyone to access.

Sustainable Jersey Recertification 2025 – D. Dobromilsky provided an update on the current status of the application and stated that the township has compiled a total of 295 points to date. A total of 350 points needs to be submitted and approved in order to obtain the Silver level certification. He provided an overview of completed actions and actions currently being worked on by him and township staff. There are two projects which he is awaiting information on from township departments before they can be included in the application.

Those projects are the EV training by emergency services personnel, confirming they have received proper training on how to handle situations involving electronic vehicles and Make Town Solar Friendly project.

AI Tools for Environmental Issues – S. Kaur provided a presentation on the custom GPT she built, West Windsor Waste Wizard, a smart local guide to waste management. The wizard can help answer concerns such as what goes in recycling, how to dispose of hazardous materials or when your bulk pickup day is scheduled. The wizard is a fast, accurate way to obtain information specifically for West Windsor residents without having to do extensive searching on the website. It can be accessed by both phone or computer. She will share the GPT with F. Guzik and E. Buhks to test it and ensure it is accurate. If determined to be correct and beneficial, she offered to release it on GPT store so a barcode or link can be created and placed on the township website for people to click and access the GPT. The barcode can also be included on flyers or informational handouts as applicable. F. Guzik asked if the GPT will update the information if the township website or other source sites update their information. S. Kaur stated that the information will automatically be obtained from the source site as it is updated and maintained. E. Buhks thanked S. Kaur for creating this GPT and presenting it at the meeting.

West Windsor Complete Streets – F. Guzik provided an overview on the policy update for Complete & Green Streets based on the Sustainable Jersey model. He had provided the resolution passed by the Township Council in 2022. The new draft resolution and policy was shared with EC members for review. This update includes a more comprehensive explanation of the Green Streets concept and the steps that need to be taken at the staff level as well as the committee level. Comments received from administration and members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian committee will be reviewed and incorporated accordingly. A. Mandel suggested some grammatical changes.

There being no further business, L. Katz motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by E. Gordon.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Tomaro, Administrative Secretary
WWT Environmental Commission