

Environmental Justice Council (EJC)

Meeting #16

Thursday, September 26, 2024

Location: North Shore Community College in Lynn located at 300 Broad Street, Lynn,
MA, 01901.
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting location: In-person

Meeting documents: [Agenda](#), [Slides](#)

Council members present:

- Madeline Fraser Cook
- Marcos Luna (In-person)
- Peter Maathey
- Patricia Spence
- Jen Salinetti
- Kalila Barnett (In-person)
- Melissa Ferretti
- Sofia Owen (In-person)

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) staff present:

- María Belén Power, EJC Undersecretary (In-person)
- Caroline Lemoine, EEA Deputy Director
- Jonathan Guzman, EEA Director (In-person)

Fish and Game Department's staff present:

- Commissioner Tom O'Shea
- Undersecretary of Environment Stephanie Cooper

Other Key Attendees:

- Mayor Nicholson
- Senator Crighton
- Representative Daniel Cahill

1. Welcome and Overview of Meeting Logistics

Kecil John provided an overview of the meeting logistics, including the use of the question and answer (Q&A) box and the availability of interpreters. María Belén Power welcomed all attendees.

2. Agenda Overview

María Belén Power reviewed the meeting agenda.

3. Roll Call/Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

María Belén conducted a roll call of the EJC members. At the start of the meeting, the following council members were present: **Kalila Barnett, Madeline Fraser Cook, Melissa Ferretti, Marcos Luna, Peter Maathey, Sofia Owen, Jen Salinetti, Patricia Spence.**

The following council members were not present: **Cheryll Holley, Caroline Hon, Namrita Kapur, Lydia Lowe, Ari Zorn, and Miles Gresham.**

María Belén opened the floor for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. **Marcos Luna** motioned to approve. **Patricia Spence** seconded the motion. All present council members accepted the minutes except for **Sofia Owen** who abstained due to not attending the previous meeting.

Mayor Nicholson Welcome

Mayor Nicholson welcomed attendees and expressed his gratitude toward the EJC. Mayor Nicholson emphasized the importance of prioritizing environmental justice and the cleanup of King's Beach.

Senator Crighton Welcome

Senator Crighton discussed land-use decisions throughout history that have led to environmental and public health impacts, including industrial initiatives that result in increased asthma rates and heart disease. Senator Crighton emphasized the importance of the Healey Driscoll administration to ensure the establishment of an accessible and clean transportation system, including the recent electrification of Fairmont line trains.

Representative Cahill Welcome

Representative Cahill welcomed participants and thanked the EJC. Representative Cahill urged the importance of understanding environmental issues impact both rural and urban areas.

4. First Public Question and Answer Session

Both virtual and in-person public participants provided comments, inquiries, and suggestions.

- A virtual participant, an Urban Forestry Fellow with the City of Lynn, emphasized the importance of tree equity and urban tree canopy in the city of Lynn. The participant shared their webpage, www.lynnincommon.com/urban-forestry, which includes information on their recent initiatives.

- An in-person participant suggested utilizing community solar farms as an accessible and affordable energy-saving option for community members living in apartments.

5. Presentation from the Fish and Game Department

Guest speaker **Commissioner Tom O’Shea** provided a presentation on the Department’s **Biodiversity Goals and Strategic Plan for Massachusetts**. Tom discussed that environmental justice is slated to be the core of work ongoing at the Department, including being represented in a new Five-Year Strategic Plan which intersects biodiversity, climate, and environmental justice. Tom provided the environmental justice goals for the Department; strengthened capacity, advanced equity, improved access to nature, and consistent dialogue with Tribes. Tom provided an overview of Executive Order No. 618, which establishes biodiversity goals including habitat management and protection, restoration of ecosystems, and connecting residents with nature.

Councilmembers inquired about the coordination between the Department of Fish and Game and other entities due to the executive nature of the order and thanked the Commissioner for the work being done.

Guest speaker **Undersecretary of Environment Stephanie Cooper** discussed the Department’s **Priorities in Lynn**. Stephanie discussed a variety of infrastructure and nature restoration projects occurring in the city – including Lynn Harbor Park, King’s Beach, Northern Strand Trail, Lynn Heritage State Park, and DCR Willis Fishing Pier.

Councilmembers inquired about long-term maintenance, historical cleanliness standards, and the process of tracking distribution of funds geographically.

6. Second Public Question and Answer Session

Both virtual and in-person participants provided comments and suggestions. Attendees from Salem and Taunton encouraged the EJC to visit their cities and organizations.

Comments from the Q&A are listed below

#	Question	Asker Name	Answer
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Commented [G(1)]: I believe we had more public comments. Are those usually added?

1	I am a Councilor At Large here in Lynn and I am wondering if there is any technical assistance happening locally with the city to assist in getting on the path to improvement with environmental initiatives? Specifically, initiatives with wind energy or solar energy as is happening in Salem?	Nicole McClain	Will follow up via email
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7. Next Steps and Adjourn

María Belén reminded council members of the next meeting date on **November 14 in Taunton**. Additionally, **Sofia Owen** inquired about the status of working group meetings. **María Belén** will follow up due to Open Meeting Law restrictions. **María Belén** welcomed suggestions from the EJC for future meeting topics. **Melissa Ferretti** recommended the Commission of Indian Affairs for discussing the Tribal EJ Strategy, **Jen Salinetti** recommended reprioritization of issues and returning to finalization of the EJ definition by holding agencies accountable. **María Belén** welcomed councilmembers to develop individual priorities to ultimately determine shared priorities to accomplish.

María Belén requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Patricia Spence** motioned to adjourn. **Melissa Ferretti** seconded. The meeting adjourned at **8:03 pm**.