

# THE PRINCETON PACKET



**SOLUTIONS**

**By Huck Fairman**

## **Town Planning: Necessary responses to our changing town and world**

Most local readers know we need to reduce emissions and can do so by turning to electric and hybrid vehicles, to solar panels, to wind and water generated electricity and to other green technologies. But a strategy not widely recognized is “town planning,” which considers the location and mixed purposes of new buildings, as well as the transportation that serves them.

Sustainable Princeton and the Princeton Public Library (again sponsored by NRG), presented another in their series of talks on sustainability. This one, to this resident, was among the most surprising, interesting and informa-

public spaces, entertainment and dining facilities, a community can reduce vehicular traffic and emissions, while making it more congenial or people-friendly.

Neighborhoods of new or renovated buildings that place residences above businesses, through “mixed-use development,” reduce the need for driving. Planned, redesigned sidewalks and parks lure pedestrians out of their cars. Improving the “walkability” of a town has traffic-reduction, health and social benefits. People enjoy public gathering places. They will patronize businesses they can reach in a ten-minute walk. This access reduces the cost to

emissions.

Mike Hornsby, the night’s third speaker, is the chief development officer for New Jersey’s Board of Public Utilities (BPU). Its purpose is to oversee utilities, ensuring safe and adequate service, and to prepare for and make possible clean energy – particularly Governor Murphy’s clean energy agenda and the state’s Energy Master Plan, which includes off-shore wind farms, expanded solar capability and increased use of electric vehicles.

Hornsby brought a state-wide perspective to the talk. He informed us that the Energy Master plan will encour-

