



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – December 28, 2020 – 7pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ann Parsekian called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm via Zoom Conference call in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975.

FLAG SALUTE

All those assembled saluted the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Joan Bannan, Debra DeWitt, Nancy Cook, Jane Conklin, Nancy Cook, John Crane, James LaMaire, Ann Parsekian, Alice Smyk

Absent: Mahwish Mustafa

Also Present: Kaitlin Cartoccio – Recording Secretary, Todd Edelstein - Resident

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the November 23, 2020 minutes made by Alice Smyk seconded by Nancy Cook. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEUS CORRESPONDENCE

a. Social Media Outreach Project

Pumpkin Smashing – not sure about participation. Recycle Coach app for phones. Future posts could include disposing masks and cutting ear strings which helps protect wildlife. Discussion of where and how to post environmental tips. Look into Constant Contact or RAVE/Smart 911.

b. 2021 Meeting Dates

NEW BUSINESS

a. Shaw – ZB-20-021 490 South Maple Ave – Minor Subdivisions use variance bulk variance

Debra DeWitt recused herself at 7:33 pm. In regard to this application, pool water discharge may result from backwashing of filters, or from the draining of swimming pools at the end of season, or during maintenance. This water often contains pool treatment chemicals that can cause damage to the receiving environment in the form of non-point source pollution. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water. Additionally, the Commission would like the applicant to make sure silt fencing is maintained properly considering its proximity to the Passaic River. The Commission would also like the applicant to consult with the tree and shrub list on the Environmental Commission's page and avoid planting Norway Spruce which is an invasive species. The applicant should also consider the number of trees when replacing.



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Motion by John Crane, seconded by Nancy Cook.

All in favor, motion carried.

1. **Reilly-ZB-20-024 48 Lyons Place** – Pool not located behind the rear building line of an adjacent dwelling

Debra DeWitt returned at 7:47 pm. In regards to this application, **pool water discharge** may result from backwashing of filters, or from the draining of swimming pools at the end of season, or during maintenance. This water often contains pool treatment chemicals that can cause damage to the receiving environment in the form of non-point source pollution. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water. The Commission would ask the Board to remind the applicants that they are virtually at capacity on **lot coverage** and that any future additions such as patios, sheds, pools or any other impervious surface coverage items would put them over the limit. The Commission suggests they discuss this with the applicant and perhaps the applicant may want to consider reducing the amount of impervious surface coverage. There needs to be a clarification of impervious coverage as 1,326 sq feet is indicated on page 3 while page 4 shows it at a 600 square foot increase after reducing for pool and spa water surface. This is not permitted in Bernards Township so stormwater calculations need to be redone using 1,326 square feet. The Environmental Commission notes the lack of details regarding the **recharge of stormwater** as part of the proposed development. The recharge of stormwater is required when impervious surface is increased by > 1,000 sq ft. Site drainage in general is a concern due to the existing characteristics of the property, for example the presence of poorly drained soil.

Motion by Debra DeWitt, seconded by Jane Conklin.

All in favor, motion carried.

- b. **Khoshaba – ZB-20-025 44 Old Farm Road** – Pool not located behind rear building line of adjacent dwelling

James LaMaire and Nancy Cook left the meeting at 8:01 pm. In regards to this application, **pool water discharge** may result from backwashing of filters, or from the draining of swimming pools at the end of season, or during maintenance. This water often contains pool treatment chemicals that can cause damage to the receiving environment in the form of non-point source pollution. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water. Only 33% voids are permitted by Bernards Township so the drywell design (which is using 40% voids) needs to be recalculated.



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Motion by Alice Smyk, seconded by Debra DeWitt.

All in favor, motion carried.

- c. **Keith – ZB-20-026 Eton Place** – Side yard setback relief for pergola to be constructed on existing patio

Was there a previous variance granted, several numerical values need to be clarified regarding lot coverage calculations.

Motion by Debra DeWitt, seconded by Alice Smyk.

All in favor, motion carried.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC

Todd Edelstein commented about the push to recycle Christmas tree. He indicated there was W9 Social Security number in the packet. He also mentioned some comments from the previous Planning Board meeting.

COMMENTS BY MEMBER

John Crane commented that he will not be on the Environmental Commission in 2021. Several members thanked him for his time on the board.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm by John Crane and seconded by Joan Bannan. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Ann Parsekian, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: December 28, 2020

RE: Applications review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their December 28, 2020 meeting and forwards the following comments.

Zoning Board

Shaw ZB20-021. 490 South Maple Avenue

The Environmental Commission has reviewed new materials for this application and offers the following comments:

1. The Environmental Commission notes the Applicant proposes to remove trees in connection with development of the new lot. Norway Spruce is listed as a replacement species; however, this species is an invasive species in New Jersey. We recommend that the Applicant consult the Recommended Tree and Shrub List provided on the Environmental Commission webpage: <https://www.bernards.org/boards/environmental>

The Environmental Commission asks that the Applicant be required to contribute to the Township Tree Fund for any trees they do not plant.

2. The Commission notes that the remainder lot will retain an existing swimming pool. Pool water discharge may result from backwashing of filters, or from the draining of swimming pools at the end of the season, or during maintenance. This water often contains pool treatment chemicals that can cause damage to the receiving environment in the form of non-point source pollution. Therefore, the Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water.

3. In light of the close proximity of this property to the Passaic River, the Commission urges the Applicant to carefully maintain the proposed silt fencing during the entire construction period.



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

Reilly ZB20-024 48 Lyons Place

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and offers the following comments:

1. With regard to this application, pool water discharge may result from backwashing of filters, or from the draining of swimming pools at the end of season or during maintenance. This water often contains pool treatment chemicals that can cause damage to the receiving environment. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water.

2. The Commission notes that the Applicant has reduced the total amount of impervious coverage by the amount of pool and spa water surface for storm water calculation purposes, which is not in accordance with Bernard Township ordinance. The Commission asks that the amount of additional impervious coverage be clarified on the submission materials and plans, and that the Applicant address any necessary stormwater requirements.

The Commission finds that note #9 of “Drainage & Grading Notes” on Drawing 4 states: “Existing stormwater drywells may exist on-site as part of previous construction installations, whereas no known locations were discovered during routine topographic property survey.” This seems to contradict the existing drywells shown on Drawing 2. The Commission recommends that the Applicant document the existence and location of any existing drywells, and identify stormwater sources for each drywell.

3. The Commission would ask the Board to remind the Applicants that they are virtually at maximum permitted lot coverage and that any future additions or any other impervious surface coverage features (such as additional pavers or similar impervious material on the south side of the pool), would put them over the limit. The Commission suggests discussing this with the Applicant and perhaps the Applicant may want to consider reducing the amount of impervious surface coverage (in addition to removing the circular patio and adjoining walkway as currently proposed).



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

Khoshaba ZB20-025. 44 Old Farm Road

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and offers the following comments:

1. With regard to this application, pool water discharge may result from backwashing of filters, or from the draining of swimming pools at the end of season or during maintenance. This water often contains pool treatment chemicals that can cause damage to the receiving environment. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water.
2. The Commission notes that the Drywell Design calculation on Sheet 4 assumes 40% voids whereas 33% voids is required by Bernards Township.

Keith ZB20-026 34 Eton Place

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and offers the following comments:

1. The Commission notes that documentation of either a previous variance or grandfathering for exceeding lot coverage as noted in the Applicant's December 22 letter was apparently not included in the application materials reviewed.
2. The Commission requests clarification of the lot coverage calculations. There appear to be discrepancies between the figures shown on the Applicant's spreadsheet and the lot coverage chart on the 2013 survey.

The Commission notes that the lot coverage appears to currently exceed the permitted maximum. Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area-wide flooding. Site Drainage is the concern, therefore site features to promote stormwater infiltration should be considered. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Infrastructure website is a good reference for "green" stormwater management practices for homeowners. www.nj.gov/dep/gi/

Cc: David Schley, Township Planner
Cyndi Kiefer, Secretary; for distribution to BOA members