

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting of January 23, 2023 - 7 pm

Municipal Building, Warren Craft Room

1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ

Meeting Agenda

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Open Public Meeting Statement**
- 3. Flag Salute**
- 4. Roll Call**
- 5. Approval of EC meeting minutes regular – [November 28, 2022](#)**
- 6. Reports and Miscellaneous Correspondence**
 - a. [ANJEC 2023](#)**
 - b. [Highlands Film](#)**
 - c. [Pollinator Group](#)**

Discussion

[2023 EC Meeting Dates](#)

[Review BTEC General Application Comments](#)

Supporting Plant Sale

Subcommittee Reports

- i. Applications Review: John Crane (lead) Jim Lamaire, Corey Fischer
- ii. ANJEC email monitoring / important educational webinars: Todd Edelstein (lead), Nancy Cook, Alice Smyk
- iii. Native Pollinator Group: Deb Dewitt (lead), Sarah Wolfson
- iv. Community Outreach / Education: Deb DeWitt (lead), Nancy Cook
- v. Guerilla Gardening: Sarah Wolfson

7. Old Business

- a. Status on Current Projects:**

8. New Business

- a. Applications**

9. Comments by Public

10. Comments by Members

11. Adjournment

Ellen Houlihan, Secretary



Please call (908) 204 - 3000 seventy-two (72) hours in advance if accommodations are required, including Assistive listening devices (ALD).



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – November 28, 2022 – 7pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Debra DeWitt called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm in the Warren Craft Room, Bernards Township Municipal Building in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975.

FLAG SALUTE

All those assembled saluted the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jennifer Asay, Nancy Cook, Debra DeWitt, Alice Smyk, John Crane, Todd Edelstein (Alternate 1), Corey Fischer, John Valeri Jr., Sarah Wolfson (Alternate 2)

Absent: James LaMaire

Also Present: Kaitlin Cartoccio, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the October 24, 2022 minutes made by Todd Edelstein seconded by Alice Smyk. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

a. ETI Letter 11.1.22

No comment

b. ETI Letter 11.14.22

No comment



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



DISCUSSION

- a. **Applications** – None
- b. **ANJEC** – 11/29/22 - Sustainable Landscaping Practices webinar. Todd Edelstein can send out information to anyone who's interested.
- c. **Native Pollinator Group** – None.
- d. **Community Outreach/Education** – Pumpkin Smash was a huge success. A few changes will be made to better it for 2023. No other community outreach or education currently.
- e. **Guerilla Gardening** – None.
- f. **Pumpkin Smash** – Saturday November 5th 11 am - 1 pm. Santa Picture Pop Up was happening at the farm - tons of people attended. Over 250 people attended for the Pumpkin Smash. Signage was great. 3 smashing stations. Get bigger bats/mallets and possibly water for next year.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Status on Current Projects** – None.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Applications

- i. **Fellowship Village, Inc. – PB 22-005 – 33 & 55 Allen Rd** – Construction of two-story structure to house staff on Lot 9 (Conditional use, prelim/final site plan.)

The Environmental Commission notes the presence of freshwater wetlands and a surface water body on the subject property. Best management practices to protect these sensitive ecological areas should be implemented during the site work (sediment and erosion controls) and post-construction (organic lawn care, protect and preserve natural soil, vegetation, and grading in buffer zones and within the stream).



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



The Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography stormwater best management practices should be given extra consideration during site work and as part of final site grading and restoration. In addition, implementation of best management practices to preserve and protect trees during the site work should be considered.

The Commission notes the intermediate resource value wetlands on the property. The Commission would also like the Board to know that according to the Bernards Township Natural Resource Inventory, this property is an area for endangered species; specifically, critical area Rank III for the wood turtle in addition, according to the township's Natural Resource Inventory (NRI), this property appears to be ranked 3 for habitat for the wood turtle.

Due to the age of the existing dwelling, the Commission would like the applicant to be aware of the potential for in-ground tanks, lead paint and asbestos. Proper precautions should be taken during demolition. During demolition, the Commission asks the applicant to consider recycling, repurposing, or gifting any materials involved in demolition that are not being reused with this application.

Motion by Todd Edelstein, seconded by Nancy Cook. Alice Smyk abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

- ii. Priscilla's Pantry, LLC – ZB 22-027 – 199 Morristown Rd – Amended preliminary / final site plan. Approval, bulk use & far variances for a sign. Installation of a self-contained refrigeration unit.**

The Environmental Commission notes the existing lot coverage exceeds the maximum amount. Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area wide flooding. Site drainage is a concern with this application, therefore site features to promote the recharge of stormwater from the roof leaders should be considered. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Infrastructure website is a good reference for "green" stormwater management practices for homeowners.

Motion by Nancy Cook, seconded by Debra DeWitt.

All in favor, motion carried.



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



- iii. Devaney – ZB 22-029 – 476 Lyons Road** – Front yard setback variance for one story addition.

No comment.

Motion by John Valeri Jr., seconded by Sarah Wolfson.

All in favor, motion carried.

- iv. Sell – ZB 22-030 – 31 Lyons Road** – Impervious coverage variance for an in-ground pool & associated amenities.

The Commission asks the Board to suggest that applicants increasing impervious coverage manage stormwater runoff by planting native trees or shrubs. The roots of these plants will take up water and promote conditions that allow soil to retain water. Adding plants can mitigate the decreased water infiltration imposed by the new impervious coverage. Please refer to the Recommended Tree and Shrub List for an introductory list of native plants available at local nurseries.

The Commission notes that a tree inventory is not depicted on the plan and asks that the applicant discuss whether any trees will be removed as part of the construction.

Regarding 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.

Motion by John Crane, seconded by Sarah Wolfson.

All in favor, motion carried.



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



- v. **Signature Acquisitions LLC – ZB 22-028 – 150 Allen Rd** – Prelim/final site plan, D4-F.A.R., bulk variances to raze existing building & construct two (2) mixed used buildings

The Environmental Commission notes the presence of freshwater wetlands and a surface water body on the subject property. Best management practices to protect these sensitive ecological areas should be implemented during the site work (sediment and erosion controls) and post-construction (organic lawn care, protect and preserve natural soil, vegetation, and grading in buffer zones and within the stream).

The Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography stormwater best management practices should be given extra consideration during site work and as part of final site grading and restoration. In addition, implementation of best management practices to preserve and protect trees during the site work should be considered.

The Commission would like to bring to the Board's attention the steep slopes shown on the plan and recommends that testimony be given about stabilization for vegetation purposes.

This property contains a wetlands conservation easement and as such, the Commission would like to see an LOI. In addition, the Commission would like the Board to examine the Riparian Buffer.

The Commission asks that the applicant be required to contribute to the Township Tree fund for any trees they do not plant.

Due to the age of the existing dwelling, the Commission would like the applicant to be aware of the potential for in-ground tanks, lead paint and asbestos. Proper precautions should be taken during demolition.

During demolition, the Commission asks the applicant to consider recycling, repurposing, or gifting any demo'd material that is not being reused with this application.

Motion by John Crane, seconded by Debra DeWitt.

All in favor, motion carried.



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Debra DeWitt let everyone know she would not be returning in 2023. John Crane commented that Debra DeWitt had been a dedicated chairperson and all members agreed. Neither Corey Fischer nor Jim LaMaire will be returning in 2023. Nancy Cook asked for an update for the neighbors who attended the September meeting and what the outcome of the Board of Adjustment and Planning Board meetings were. Alice Smyk also mentioned that Debra DeWitt's dividing of the work helped the board succeed.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm. Motion by Debra DeWitt second by Nancy Cook. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Planning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Deb DeWitt, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: November 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Application Review

The Environmental Commission reviewed this application at its November 28, 2022, meeting and has the following comments:

Fellowship Village, Inc. – PB 22-005, 33 & 35 Allen Road

The Environmental Commission notes the presence of freshwater wetlands and a surface water body on the subject property. Best management practices to protect these sensitive ecological areas should be implemented during the site work (sediment and erosion controls) and post-construction (organic lawn care, protect and preserve natural soil, vegetation, and grading in buffer zones and within the stream).

The Environmental Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography storm water best management practices should be given extra consideration during site work and as part of final site grading and restoration. In addition, implementation of best management practices to preserve and protect trees during the site work should be considered.

The Commission recommends that the silt fence incorporate the stockpile to allow movement of soil, it doesn't appear to be that way on the plans.

This property contains a wetlands conservation easement and as such, the Environmental Commission would like to see an LOI. In addition, the Commission would like the Board to examine the Riparian Buffer.

Due to the age of the existing dwelling, the Environmental Commission would like the applicant to be aware of the potential for in-ground tanks, lead paint and asbestos. Proper precautions should be taken during demolition.

During demolition, the Environmental Commission asks the applicant to consider recycling, repurposing, or gifting any demo'd material that is not being reused with this application.

Cc: David Schley, Township Planner
Cyndi Kiefer, Secretary; for distribution to PB members and Attorney to applicant



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Deb DeWitt, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: November 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Applications Review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their **November 28, 2022** meeting and forwards the following comments:

Priscilla's Pantry, LLC – ZB 22-027, 199 Morristown Road

The Environmental Commission notes the existing lot coverage exceeds the maximum amount. Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area wide flooding. Site drainage is a concern with this application, therefore site features to promote the recharge of stormwater should be considered. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Infrastructure website is a good reference for “green” stormwater management practices for homeowners (<http://www.nju.gov/dep/gi/>)

Devaney – ZB 22-029, 476 Lyons Road

The Environmental Commission has no comments on this application.

Sell – ZB 22-030, 31 Lyons Place

The Environmental Commission notes the plans include a stormwater infiltration system to mitigate the excess impervious coverage planned.

The Commission asks the Board to suggest that applicants increasing impervious coverage manage stormwater runoff by planting *native* trees or shrubs. The roots of these plants will take up water and promote conditions that allow soil to retain water. Adding plants can mitigate the decreased water infiltration imposed by the new impervious coverage. Please refer to the Recommended Tree and Shrub List for an introductory list of native plants available at local nurseries.

https://www.bernards.org/?option=com_fileman&view=file&routed=1&name=Tree%20and%20Shrub%20Replacement%20List.pdf&folder=Environmental&container=fileman-files



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

The Commission notes that a tree inventory is not depicted on the plan and asks that the applicant discuss whether any trees will be removed as part of the construction.

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.

Signature Acquisitions LLC – ZB 22-028, 150 Allen Road

The Environmental Commission notes the presence of freshwater wetlands and a surface water body on the subject property. Best management practices to protect these sensitive ecological areas should be implemented during the site work (sediment and erosion controls) and post-construction (organic lawn care, protect and preserve natural soil, vegetation, and grading in buffer zones and within the stream).

The Environmental Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography storm water best management practices should be given extra consideration during site work and as part of final site grading and restoration. In addition, implementation of best management practices to preserve and protect trees during the site work should be considered.

The Commission would like to bring to the Board's attention the steep slopes shown on the plan and recommends that testimony be given about stabilization for vegetation purposes.

This property contains a wetlands conservation easement and as such, the Environmental Commission would like to see an LOI. In addition, the Commission would like the Board to examine the Riparian Buffer.

The Environmental Commission would like the Board to question why the applicant cannot close the gap in the tree removal/replacement requirements (417 trees being removed which requires 649 be planted and only replacing 176) and asks that the applicant be required to contribute to the Township Tree Fund for any trees they do not plant.

Due to the age of the existing dwelling, the Environmental Commission would like the applicant to be aware of the potential for in-ground tanks, lead paint and asbestos. Proper precautions should be taken during demolition.

During demolition, the Environmental Commission asks the applicant to consider recycling, repurposing, or gifting any demo'd material that is not being reused with this application.

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



Invoice and Voucher Certification Form
2023 Membership

Invoice Date: November 2022

Env. Commission Chair
Bernards Township
One Collyer Lane
Basking Ridge NJ 07920-0437

Billing Information

*please make checks payable to
ANJEC*

P.O. Box 157

Mendham, NJ 07945

Email: info@anjec.org, 973-539-7547

Returning a copy of this completed form entitles you to all membership services offered by ANJEC. This form has been approved by the Local Finance Board. Please reduce paperwork and postage by using this form. Since this form has been approved by the Local Finance Board your voucher for separate signature is not needed.

Please do not send a separate voucher.

Services rendered:

***2023 Membership Dues for
up to 7 members (includes trainings) \$400**

***2023 Membership Dues for a second \$
committee up to 7 members, \$175 (includes trainings)**

***Commissions may add commission alternates,
mayors, planning board members or other officials,
for an additional \$35 each (includes trainings) \$**

TOTAL : \$

Claimant's Certification and Declaration

I do solemnly declare and certify under the penalties of the law that this bill or invoice statement is correct in all its particulars; that the materials/articles have been furnished or services rendered as stated herein; that no bonus has been given or received by any person or persons within the knowledge of this claimant in connection with the above claim; that the amount herein stated is justly due and owing; and that the amount charged is a reasonable one.

Jennifer M. Coffey, Executive Director Signature:

Federal ID 23-7123285

Certification by Receiving Agency

I, having knowledge of the facts, certify and declare that the goods have been received or the services rendered and are in compliance with specifications and other requirements, and said certification is based on signed delivery slips or other reasonable procedures or other verifiable information.

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Certification by Approval Official

I certify and declare that this bill or invoice is correct, and that sufficient funds are available to satisfy this claim. The payment shall be chargeable to: Appropriation Account(s) and amounts

Charged: _____

\$ _____

P.O.# _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____



Membership Renewal for 2023 Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)

As an ANJEC member your commission is part of a vital network of over 350 municipal environmental commissions working to ensure that the environment has a strong voice in local government in New Jersey. ANJEC membership will connect you with a community of environmental commissions and empower you with in-person and online trainings, resources, updates on statewide policy proposals, and opportunities to partner with non-profit leadership initiatives. ANJEC's services will equip you with the resources and strategies to implement solutions to the environmental challenges facing your community, successfully complete environmental projects and advance local policies based on best practices.

Membership Benefit Highlights

ANJEC Training – Workshops, webinars, and trainings are included in your membership. Members can attend topnotch training, meeting experts and over 1,000 local environmentalists in a robust forum for sharing information and success stories among towns. Membership also provides a discount for the annual ANJEC Environmental Congress.

ANJEC Resource Center – Experienced project directors are available to research member questions, provide information and resources, and share their knowledge to help your commission, committee or green team work more effectively, including best practices and information on emerging environmental issues.

ANJEC Publications – The *ANJEC Report*, our quarterly magazine, and the *ANJEC News*, our biweekly e-newsletter, as well as email alerts, resource papers, toolkits and manuals provide a wealth of timely information and practical guidance on creating sustainable communities.

Sample Ordinances & Plans – ANJEC members have access to our extensive database of sample environmental ordinances and municipal plans, environmental resource inventories, open space or trails plans, master plan elements, sustainability plans, etc.

Portable Displays – loaned for free to members for use at green fairs, celebrations and other events.

Membership Rates

Membership for up to seven members: **\$400**.

A second committee, board, or green team with up to seven members: **\$175**.

Additional members (commission alternates, planning board members, mayor, etc.): **\$35/person**.

Road Shows – Member towns can arrange a Road Show tailored to your needs. For **\$300**, ANJEC staff will present a workshop on environmental topics and deliver it at your facility, or virtually. You can invite municipal officials and other guests from your town or neighboring municipalities.

JOIN NOW! Please deliver the enclosed Invoice and Voucher Certification Form to your municipality's finance office for payment as soon as possible. Remember to send your membership list with contact information, (using the form in this membership packet) in order to receive notifications on ANJEC programming and other valuable resources. NOTE: Invoice and Voucher Certification Form and Contact List Form can also be found online at anjec.org/memberships.



Invoice and Voucher Certification Form
2023 Membership

Invoice Date: November 2022

Env. Commission Chair
Bernards Township
One Collyer Lane
Basking Ridge NJ 07920-0437

Billing Information

please make checks payable to
ANJEC

P.O. Box 157

Mendham, NJ 07945

Email: info@anjec.org, 973-539-7547

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up to 7 members (includes trainings) **\$400**

***2023 Membership Dues for a second** **\$**
committee up to 7 members, \$175 (includes trainings)

***Commissions may add commission alternates,**
mayors, planning board members or other officials,
for an additional \$35 each (includes trainings) **\$**

TOTAL : \$

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Jennifer M. Coffey, Executive Director **Signature:**

Federal ID 23-7123285

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Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

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Charged: _____

\$ _____

P.O.# _____

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Date: _____



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JOIN NOW! Please deliver the enclosed Invoice and Voucher Certification Form to your municipality's finance office for payment as soon as possible. Remember to send your membership list with contact information, (using the form in this membership packet) in order to receive notifications on ANJEC programming and other valuable resources. NOTE: Invoice and Voucher Certification Form and Contact List Form can also be found online at anjec.org/memberships.



Invoice and Voucher Certification Form for
2021 Membership

2022

Invoice Date: January 2021

Billing Information:

Please make checks payable to

ANJEC

P.O. Box 157

Mendham, New Jersey 07945

973-539-7547

Env. Commission Chair
Bernards Township
One Collyer Lane
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-0437

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Please do not send a separate voucher.

Services rendered:

*2021 Membership Dues for ANJEC for
up to 7 members, including trainings \$375

*2021 Membership Dues for a second \$
committee up to 7 members, \$150 includes trainings

*Member Commissions may add associate, alternate members,
mayors, planning board members or other officials,
for an additional \$25 each, includes trainings 3 @ \$25 = \$75

TOTAL: \$450⁰⁰

Claimant's Certification and Declaration

I do solemnly declare and certify under the penalties of the law that this bill or invoice statement is correct in all its particulars; that the materials/articles have been furnished or services rendered as stated herein; that no bonus has been given or received by any person or persons within the knowledge of this claimant in connection with the above claim; that the amount herein stated is justly due and owing; and that the amount charged is a reasonable one.

Jennifer M. Coffey, Executive Director Signature: _____

Federal ID 23-7123285

Certification by Receiving Agency

I, having knowledge of the facts, certify and declare that the goods have been received or the services rendered and are in compliance with specifications and other requirements, and said certification is based on signed delivery slips or other reasonable procedures or other verifiable information.

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Certification by Approval Official

I certify and declare that this bill or invoice is correct, and that sufficient funds are available to satisfy this claim. The payment shall be chargeable to: Appropriation Account(s) and amounts

Charged: _____

\$ _____

P.O.# _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Last Name	FirstName	Position	Office Held	Address	Home Phone	E-Mail
Asay	Jennifer	TC Liaison Non-Voting		71 Butternut Lane	908-981-4043	jasay@bernards.org
Cook	Nancy	RM		44 Bullion Rd.	(908) 251-1322	NancyFcook@gmail.com
Crane	John	RM		39 Decker St	908-953-0727 c 732-496-9028	johncrane2100@gmail.com
DeWitt	Debra	RM	Chairperson	140 Spencer Road	(908) 229-4720	dpdewitt01@gmail.com
Edelstein	Todd	A2		172 Riverside Drive	908-221-0281	toddedelstein07920@gmail.com
Fischer	Cory	RM		2001 Rose Ct	908-892-1303	coryfischer@gmail.com
LaMaire	James	RM		39 Dryden Road	(732) 221-0278	jlamaire@optonline.net
Smyk	Alice	RM	Vice Chairperson	57 Shannon Hill Rd.	(908) 647-5613	alice@smyk.us
Valeri, Jr.	John	RM		12 Deerfield Court		ivaleri@csglaw.com
Wolfson	Sarah	A1		226 Somerville Rd.	732-616-6537	sarahjwolfson@gmail.com

Ellen Houlihan

From: Dylan Medici <dylan@njhighlandscoalition.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 5:04 PM
To: Ellen Houlihan
Subject: Highlands Rediscovered Film Showing in Bernards

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear sir or madam,

My name is Dylan Medici and I am the Manager of Outreach and Education at the New Jersey Highlands Coalition. I would like to know your interest on working together on promoting the Highlands Region (its natural and scenic resources and water supplies, and the challenges the region faces) to Bernards residents through a showing of the film *The Highlands Rediscovered*, and a discussion and Q&A session on the Highlands and Bernards Township's place in it.

Bernards Township is unique in the Highlands as it is one of its most densely populated towns, being located at the junction of two of New Jersey's largest interstates, and serving the Newark-New York metropolitan area. I believe the film and its discussion would be a great way to engage with the community and draw in a larger audience to talk about this little-known part of our state's natural history.

I look forward to hearing from you,

--

Dylan Medici (he/him/his)

Manager of Outreach and Education

New Jersey Highlands Coalition

Work: (973) 588-7190 | **Mobile:** (862) 222-4564

www.njhighlandscoalition.org

Ellen Houlihan

From: Deb DeWitt <dpdewitt01@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 9:53 PM
To: 2022 EC Members
Subject: Fwd: Pollinator Working Group - January 2023 Update

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

FYI. You should let them know who the new contact is and whether you plan to support the sale this year.

Thanks,

Sent from my iPhone
Deb DeWitt

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lydia Chambers <lydchambers@msn.com>
Date: January 6, 2023 at 9:19:29 PM EST
To: johannawissinger@verizon.net, dpdewitt01@gmail.com, sarahjwolfson@gmail.com, rozella.clyde@gmail.com, yanadoyle@gmail.com, torrilu@hotmail.com, jessica.romeo@gmail.com, cara_pacifico@hotmail.com, dkstillinger@gmail.com, hhsymonds@att.net, platt9100@gmail.com, kateforharding@gmail.com, richclew@aol.com, lisawelsh@me.com, susangarretsonfriedman@gmail.com, maccarij@rosenet.org, mmjean0428@gmail.com, claire.whitcomb@mac.com, bridgetdaley@optimum.net, nmmarkou@gmail.com, kbono@openix.com, millburntownshipgreenteam@gmail.com, kathleen.bourke76@gmail.com, kpellicane@hotmail.com, julietdavis@comcast.net, debellisnj@gmail.com, susan4383@gmail.com, bpm98@hotmail.com, dnathemol@hotmail.com, jlistersky@aol.com, treefriend@verizon.net, jessleah@gmail.com, lindajbeck@gmail.com, barbara@principiainc.com, morahzukoff@gmail.com, abermanla@comcast.net, Teneciah@gmail.com, macfmly2go@gmail.com, summit.nj.ec@gmail.com, rlindenmut@aol.com, lois.kraus2662@gmail.com, roundphil@hotmail.com, bewright@gmail.com, Mary Orloff <maryorloff22@yahoo.com>, dvorkin1@optonline.net
Cc: susan4383@gmail.com, john4383@gmail.com
Subject: Pollinator Working Group - January 2023 Update

Hello Pollinator Pals-

Happy New Year! We're officially kicking off the third GSWA Native Plant Sale. We are thrilled to announce four awesome expert speakers for the pre-sale webinar series this winter:

1. **Webinar #1 on Jan 17 at 7pm: Desiree Narango (author of the famous chickadee) on "Native Plants for Native Wildlife". Publicity pieces to share are attached and content is below.**
2. Webinar #2 on Feb 21 at 7pm: Eric Eaton on "Wasps: the Astonishing Diversity of a Misunderstood Insect"
3. Webinar #3 on March 21 at 7pm: Heather Holm on "What's the Buzz about Native Bees?"
4. Webinar #4 on April 3: Hazel England will present an overview of the 35 native plants species in the sale.

Now that you've seen this star-studded webinar line-up, we hope you're excited to be part of the sale. The sale dates are as follows:

Online sale: April 3-28

Assembly week (all hands on deck): May 1-5

Distribution Day: May 6

Please take a moment to answer a few quick questions (no need to reply all – just reply to Lydia, Susan and John please).

1. Does your group/town/club want to be a plant sale partner this year? This means you agree to share the publicity pieces we provide with your networks January-May (monthly at first and then weekly starting in mid-March). Then, you will need to round up volunteers for the assembly and distribution week. **Please contact one of us if you have any questions about partner responsibilities.**

2. How do you do publicity? Via social media, emails, networking with local organizations, or local press?

3. Do you have suggestions for ways we could improve the publicity resources/process this year?

4. Do you have any success stories you'd like to share to inspire other partners or have highlighted by GSWA?

Lastly, we are going to hold a **Pollinator Working Group meeting on Tuesday, January 31 at 5pm over Zoom.** We look forward to hearing what everyone is up to. Please let us know if you can attend and what you'd like to discuss!

Best,
Lydia, John, and Susan

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2023 Plant Sale Virtual Talk #1 -

Title: Evening Briefing: NATIVE PLANTS FOR NATIVE WILDLIFE, Desiree Narango, Conservation Scientist with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies

Date: Tuesday, 1/17/23, 7:00 PM - 8:00 pm

Cost: Free (but suggested \$5-\$10 donation) Zoom link emailed 24-48 hrs prior to program start.

URL/Signup Link: greatswamp.org/event/evbr-native-plants-native-wildlife (<https://bit.ly/3Zkgiaq>)

(Post Text)

The start of 2023 = the start of the #GreatSwampNJ 🌱 2023 PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS PROGRAM 🐝! This year GSWA is holding FOUR (count 'em) webinars to help us build knowledge and awareness about the amazing importance of native pollinators and the plants that serve them. We have great, nationally recognized speakers lined up for our webinars.

WEBINAR #1's topic is '🌱 NATIVE PLANTS FOR NATIVE WILDLIFE 🐝'. On Tuesday 1/17/23 7PM, Desiree Narango, a Conservation Scientist with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, will help us begin to understand

the key steps toward cultivating biodiversity conservation in our gardens. She'll use practical examples from her research that underpin the importance of building local, native, biodiversity.

Join us for this free webinar. While this program is offered for free, there are costs associated with hosting speakers. Won't you consider a suggested donation of \$5-\$10 ADDED AT CHECKOUT, to help GSWA offset the cost of bringing and hosting these impactful webinars. For more details and sign up, go to <https://bit.ly/3Zkgigc>. A Zoom link will be emailed to the attendees 24-48 hrs. ahead of the webinar start.

Looking ahead to mark your calendars...WEBINAR #2 on 2/21 7PM, topic - Wasps: The astonishing Diversity of a Misunderstood Insect. Speaker: Eric Eaton, author of Insectpedia and entomologist specializing in hymenoptera. WEBINAR #3 on 3/21 7PM, topic - What's the Buzz About Native Bees. Speaker: Acclaimed author Heather Holms. WEBINAR #4 on 4/3, the official PLANT SALE OPENING after GSWA's Hazel England, Director of Education and Stewardship, presentation of the more than 35 plants we are selling this year, as well as details about their growth and benefits for pollinator friendly yards. PLANT SALE ONLINE April 3-28 (Order pickup date - May 6).

Native Plants for Native Wildlife

Key steps toward cultivating biodiversity
conservation in our gardens



Join us for this free webinar on
Tuesday, 1/17/23 at 7PM with
practical examples of the
importance of building
local, native, biodiversity.



2023 PLANT SALE ONLINE -
APRIL 3-28



**TOWNSHIP OF BERNARDS
COUNTY OF SOMERSET
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**NOTICE OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR THE 2023
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Environmental Commission of the Township of Bernards will meet to discuss or act upon public business at 7:00 PM on each of the dates set forth below.

REGULAR MEETING: ***January 23***
 February 27
 March 27
 April 24
 May 22
 June 26
 July 24
 August 28
 September 25
 October 23
 November 27

Ellen Houlihan
Secretary

Dated: December 28, 2023

cc: Township Clerk
 Bernardsville News
 Courier News

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Application Review/Generic Comments

Best Management Practices

1. The Environmental Commission notes the presence of freshwater wetlands and a surface water body on the subject property. **Best management practices** to protect these sensitive ecological areas should be implemented during the site work (sediment and erosion controls) and post-construction (organic lawn care, protect and preserve natural soil, vegetation, and grading in buffer zones and within the stream).
2. The Environmental Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography storm water **best management practices** should be given extra consideration during site work and as part of final site grading and restoration. In addition, implementation of best management practices to preserve and protect trees during the site work should be considered.

Lot Coverage

3. The Environmental Commission notes the existing **lot coverage exceeds** the maximum amount. Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area wide flooding. Site drainage is a concern with this application, therefore site features to promote the recharge of stormwater from the roof leaders should be considered. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Infrastructure website is a good reference for “green” stormwater management practices for homeowners (<http://www.nju.gov/dep/gi/>)
4. 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, concrete pads for mechanicals (AC, generators) 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.
5. The Commission asks the Board to suggest that applicants increasing impervious coverage manage stormwater runoff by **planting native trees or shrubs**. The roots of these plants will take up water and promote conditions that allow soil to retain water. Adding plants can mitigate the decreased water infiltration imposed by the new impervious coverage. Please refer to the Recommended Tree and Shrub List for an introductory list of native plants available at local nurseries.
https://www.bernards.org/?option=com_fileman&view=file&routed=1&name=Tree%20and%20Shrub%20Replacement%20List.pdf&folder=Environmental&container=fileman-files

Storm Water

6. 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.

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Application Review/Generic Comments

Steep Slopes

7. The Commission would like to bring to the Board's attention the **steep slopes** shown on the plan and recommends that testimony be given about stabilization for vegetation purposes.

Natural Resource Inventory

8. In regards to this application, the township's **NRI** shows this property contains XX (e.g., the endangered wood turtle, which are identified as a level 3 out of 5 endangered species). As such, wetland buffers should be checked to ensure they are the required 150 feet.
9. The Commission notes the intermediate resource value wetlands on the property. The EC would also like the Board to know that according to the Bernards Township **Natural Resource Inventory**, this property is an area for endangered species; specifically, critical area Rank III for the wood turtle. In addition, according to the township's Natural Resource Inventory (NRI), this property appears to be ranked 3 for habitat for the wood turtle.

Wetlands

10. This property contains a **wetlands conservation easement** and as such, the Environmental Commission would like to see an LOI. In addition, the Commission would like the Board to examine the Riparian Buffer.
11. With regard to the presence of and proposed development on the existing **wetlands**, the Environmental Commission defers to the NJDEP review of the Freshwater Wetland Individual Permit.

Tree Permits/Protection/Replacement

12. The Commission notes that a **tree inventory** is not depicted on the plan and asks that the applicant discuss whether any trees will be removed as part of the construction.
13. The Commission would like to note if any **tree permits** have been taken out and the replacement of same. In regards to this application, the Environmental Commission feels that long-term tree survivability should be the goal of any tree replacement plan and that native hardwood species should be selected whenever practicable.
14. In regards to this application, the Environmental Commission would like to see a **tree removal and replacement plan**. Long-term tree survivability should be the goal of any tree replacement plan and native hardwood species should be selected whenever practical.
15. The Environmental Commission asks that the applicant be required to contribute to the **Township Tree fund** for any trees they do not plant.
16. The Commission reviewed the revised plans and notes that the applicant is requesting a waiver of the **tree requirements**. The Commission recommends that the Board request that a certified arborist or forester provide testimony to the Board on the poor or unhealthy condition of the trees before any consideration is given to reducing the number of required trees.

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Application Review/Generic Comments

Critical Habitat

17. The Environmental Commission notes that the proposed development is **within Critical Habitat Area XX**, per the ERI.

Stream Buffers

18. The EC believes that the impact of this development on the environment would be contradictory to the **stream buffer conservation ordinance** which limits or prohibits certain activities, including erecting any permanent structure. The stream buffer conservation ordinance was created to better protect the stream buffers and enhance the water quality of the adjacent streams. The regulations provide reasonable controls governing the restoration, conservation, disturbance, and management of existing stream buffers along all perennial (flows continuously) and intermittent (does not always have water in it) streams, lakes, and ponds in the municipality. Therefore, the EC does not support any intrusion into the stream buffer conservation area

Pool Discharge

19. 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.

Demolition

20. Due to the age of the existing dwelling, the Environmental Commission would like the applicant to be aware of the potential for **in-ground tanks, lead paint and asbestos**. Proper precautions should be taken during demolition.
21. During demolition, the Environmental Commission asks the applicant to consider **recycling, repurposing or gifting** any demo'd material that is not being reused with this application.

Master Plan

22. The Environmental Commission would request the Board to have the applicant discuss how the proposal **promotes the environmental goals** and objectives of the Master Plan.