



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – July 26, 2021 – 7pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ann Parsekian called the meeting to order at 7:02 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: John Crane, Jane Conklin, Nancy Cook, Ann Parsekian, Jason Roberts, Alice Smyk

Absent: Joan Bannan, Debra DeWitt, James LaMaire, Sarah Wolfson

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

One change to be made to the May minutes regarding member comment and public comment. Motion to approve EC regular meeting minutes – May 24, 2021 by John Crane, seconded by Alice Smyk. Nancy Cook abstained. All others in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEUS CORRESPONDENCE

a. **123 Whitenack Rd** – Septic Alteration Plan

No comments.

b. **73 Deer Ridge Rd** – Septic Alteration Plan

No comments.

c. **99 & 111 Mine Brook Rd** – Freshwater Permits & LOI Extension

No comments.

OLD BUSINESS

a. **Status on Current Projects:**

i. **Public Outreach**

Facebook outreach – reduced postings but continued posts about the Spotted Lantern Fly.

ii. **Reusable Bag Design Challenge**

Ann Parsekian sent out the PDF containing all the finalist's entries. The EC members looked over the file and picked the finalists which will be announced



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shortly.

iii. EC Comments on the 2019 Reexamination Report

There was some discussion regarding the reexamination report, but it was agreed to officially be tabled until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Applications

- i. Weisfelner – ZB21-019** – 22 High Meadow Rd – Construction of inground pool not located behind the rear building of existing structures on adjoining lots.

Tabled until August.

- ii. Fabian – ZB21-021**- 20 Addison Dr – Bulk Variance for max impervious coverage for inground pool-patio.

The Environmental Commission notes that construction on the property started prior to the application review. 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 the 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.

The Environmental Commission noted that the rain garden proposed could be moved to a better area. A rain garden is proposed within soil rated “C”, however “B” is proposed by the Environmental Commission as the better area.

Regarding this application, 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 Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water.

The applicant should consult the native plants list posted on the EC webpage for appropriate native trees, shrubs, and plants.

Motion by Jane Conklin, seconded by Alice Smyk.

All in favor, motion carried.



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- iv. **Caesar – ZB21-022** – 24 Post Terrace – Rear yard setback to construct a second story master suite over an existing garage.

Tabled until August.

- v. **Verb – ZB21-024** – 33 Long Rd – Variance to construct pool (1) not behind rear building line of adjacent building, (2) Pool located in front yard.

Tabled until August.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Todd Edelstein commented that the bag designs the students submitted were very creative. Any changes made for the final copies should be brought to their attention. He also mentioned that Verizon tore all the grass and shrubs up in front near 287. Last meeting Todd mentioned the program he sent regarding Plastic Wars and commented about the possibility of recycling pill bottles.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Nancy Cook commented that the EC brought up similar recycling concerns on the recycling tour they went on in June. Ann thanked everyone for reviewing the reusable bag entries and encouraged members to review the reexamination for August.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm. Motion by Nancy Cook seconded by Alice Smyk. 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: July 29, 2021

RE: Applications review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their July 26, 2021 meeting and forwards the following comments.

Board of Adjustment
Fabian ZB21-021 20 Addison Dr.

The Environmental Commission reviewed this application at its July 26, 2021 meeting and has the following comments:

The EC notes that construction commenced prior to this application. The proposed increase in impervious area is greater than the 1,000 sf trigger to require stormwater recharge and that a raingarden has been proposed within hydrologic soil group rating “c”, whereas the adjacent hydrologic soil group rating “b” would be better. The EC recommends discussion of the placement of the rain garden and review of its sufficiency.

The EC is aware of precedent for pool and deck construction in the ¾-acre residential zone where masonry pool deck and associated patio was disallowed/removed in order to reduce impervious coverage. Such precedent should be considered in light of the proposed overage in 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, which can be found here: [BMPs: Pool Water Discharge](#)

The applicant should consult the native plant lists posted on the EC webpage for appropriate native trees, shrubs, and plants, or use this link: [Recommended Tree and Shrub List](#)

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