



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – September 27, 2021 – 7pm

CALL TO ORDER

Debra DeWitt 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: Joan Bannan, John Crane, Nancy Cook, Debra DeWitt, Jason Roberts (7:13 pm), Alice Smyk, Sarah Wolfson (7:08 pm)

Absent: Jane Conklin, James LaMaire

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

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRPERSON

Nancy Cook nominated Debra DeWitt for Chairperson, seconded by Alice Smyk. All in favor, motion carried.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Nancy Cook nominated Alice Smyk for Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Debra DeWitt. All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve EC regular meeting minutes – August 23, 2021 by Alice Smyk, second by Nancy Cook . All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEUS CORRESPONDENCE

None

OLD BUSINESS

a. Status on Current Projects

i. Public Outreach

Nothing new to report. There will be a stronger social media push in the fall. There was some discussion surround spotted lanternflies and destroying them at their current stage.

ii. Reusable Bag Design Challenge

Debra DeWitt thanked Joan Bannan for dialing in and John Crane and Alice Smyk for attending the Township Committee meeting where the winners of the reusable bag challenge were announced. Debra DeWitt spoke about possibly creating decals with



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some of the winner's designs and whether or not that should be pursued. She also repeated where to pick up this year's reusable bags.

iii. EC Comments on the 2019 Reexamination Report

John Crane said he would check to see if the 2020 Reexamination Report was sent, not 2019 report.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Marchelli – ZB 21-026 – 35 Normandy Ctt** – Pool not located behind the rear building line of an adjacent dwelling.

Joan Bannan stepped away at 7:26 pm. 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 Nancy Cook, seconded by John Crane.

All in favor, motion carried.

- ii. Ferrier – ZB 21-027 – 107 Childs Rd -** Bulk variances for addition.

Joan Bannan returned at 7:45 pm. Even though the application does not add greater than 1,000 sf of impervious coverage, the Environmental Commission is concerned that this property already exceeds the maximum allowable impervious coverage allowed with more to be added. 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 therefore site features to promote stormwater infiltration such as the installation of a seepage pit or other green stormwater management practices for homeowners be considered to help mitigate risk.

Motion by Alice Smyk , seconded by John Crane.

All in favor, motion carried.

- iii. Porr – ZB 21-028 – 10 Prospect Ave** – Bulk variances for installation of in-ground pool.

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. Even though the application does not add greater than 1,000 sf of impervious coverage,



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the Environmental Commission is concerned that this property already exceeds the maximum allowable impervious coverage allowed with more to be added. 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 therefore site features to promote stormwater infiltration such as the installation of a seepage pit or other green stormwater management practices for homeowners be considered to help mitigate risk.

Motion by Alice Smyk, seconded Nancy Cook.

All in favor, motion carried.

iv. Haley – ZB 21-029 – 5 Dawn Dr – Lot coverage variance for addition.

With regard to this application, the Environmental Commission suspects that all the pool water will be drained to expand the existing pool. 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. Even though this application does not add greater than 1,000 sf of impervious coverage, the Environmental Commission is concerned that this property already slightly exceeds the maximum allowable impervious coverage allowed with more to be added. 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 therefore site features to promote stormwater infiltration such as the installation of a seepage pit or other green stormwater management practices for homeowners be considered to help mitigate risk. The Environmental Commission notes the lack of a tree removal plan and asks that applicant discuss with the Zoning Board what trees, if any, will be removed and if any will be replaced. The Commission recommends native hardwood species should be planted whenever practical.

Motion by John Crane, seconded by Nancy Cook.

All in favor, motion carried.

v. Pumpkin Smash – Around this time last year the idea for a town-wide pumpkin smash was brought up at the Environmental Commission. Recording Secretary Kaitlin Cartoccio offered to help host the event with her student group, Ridge Education Action & Community Health (REACH) and advertise through her program with the Bernards Township Library, Grab n Go Teen Outreach. The event could be used as a stress relief for not only the teens impacted by GNG but other residents can be invited. Jason Roberts mentioned that a local farm may be interested in co-sponsoring. Debra DeWitt mentioned that the pumpkins need to be composted and disposed of properly. Members will work offline to coordinate and advertise the Pumpkin Smash tentatively scheduled for November 1st 3:30-5 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT



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Todd Edelstein asked how the pumpkins would be smashed. He also had suggestions on how to share spotted lanternfly eradication methods.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Debra DeWitt said that a Tap the Talent was submitted for a new member and they're on the agenda for this week. She also mentioned that Zoom meetings would be up to the Environmental Commission. Jason Roberts asked if the Environmental Commission can lobby for more frequent recycling than every 2 weeks. The group agreed that may be difficult. Ellen Houlihan is the new secretary. Ann Parsekian will be recognized at the second September meeting. John Crane mentioned that they should write a thank you note for Ann. Sarah Wolfson spoke about the Invasive Species task force at the Environmental Education Center. The two high school students who were interested in a community garden may not be able to make it work but have been going to the invasive species pulling. They may be interested in guerilla gardening and becoming junior members of the Environmental Committee. Nancy Cook congratulated Debra DeWitt and Alice Smyk on their new positions. Debra DeWitt mentioned wanting to work more cohesively in looking at applications and taking notes. Todd Edelstein mentioned that all the applications can be split amongst members, and they could each take the lead on discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at pm. Motion by Nancy Cook, seconded by Joan Bannan. All in favor, motion carried. 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Debra DeWitt, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: September 28, 2021

RE: Applications review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their September 27, 2021 meeting and forwards the following comments.

Marchelli – ZB21-026, 35 Normandy Court

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.

<https://www.bernards.org/government/documents/departments/documents/environmental/1645-best-management-practices-pool-water-discharge/file>

Ferrier – ZB21-027, 107 Childs Road

While this application does not add greater than 1,000 sf of impervious coverage, the Environmental Commission is concerned that this property already exceeds the maximum allowable impervious coverage allowed with more to be added. 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 therefore site features to promote stormwater infiltration such as the installation of a seepage pit or other green stormwater management practices for homeowners be considered to help mitigate risk. (NJ DEP Green Infrastructure website is a good reference: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gi/>)

Porr – ZB21-028, 10 Prospect Avenue

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.

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management practices for homeowners be considered to help mitigate risk. (NJ DEP Green Infrastructure website is a good reference: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gi/>)

Haley – ZB21-029, 5 Dawn Drive

With regard to this application, we suspect that all the pool water will be drained in order to expand the existing pool (in addition to the regular backwashing of filters and other pool maintenance involved with owning a pool). 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. <https://www.bernards.org/government/documents/department-documents/environmental/1645-best-management-practices-pool-water-discharge/file>

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The Environmental Commission notes the lack of a tree removal plan and asks that applicant discuss with the Zoning Board what trees, if any, will be removed and if any will be replaced. The Commission recommends native hardwood species should be planted whenever practical.

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