



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

October 25, 2021 – 7:00pm

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, Jane Conklin John Crane, Nancy Cook, Debra DeWitt, Corey Fischer, James LaMaire (7:05 pm), Alice Smyk, Sarah Wolfson

Absent: Jason Roberts

Also Present: Christine Andres – Recording Secretary, Todd Edelstein – Resident, Kate Katilito – Resident

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve EC regular meeting minutes – September 27, 2021, by Nancy Cook, second by Alice Smyk. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEUS CORRESPONDENCE

None

Discussion

a. Shade Tree Commission/Spotted Lantern Fly

Jack Grey, Shade Tree, lead the discussion on spotted lantern flies and ways to destroy them in their current stage (i.e., rubbing alcohol). The members concurred that pesticides are a last resort.

b. Guerilla Gardening

Sarah Wolfson informed the board on the goal of identifying neglected areas in the Township and creating better habitats for native plants. Once smaller locations are identified by residents, approvals would be required from property owners or the Public Works Department.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Status on Current Projects



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



i. Public Outreach

Debra Dewitt reported that “Tips of the Week” are posted to the Townships Facebook page. (i.e., lotions, wish recycling, reduce & reuse)

ii. Pumpkin Smash

The event will be held November 5th at Dog Wood Farms 12:30pm to 2:00pm. The event will be beginning with pumpkin counting and the children “smashing” the pumpkins one at a time for safety reasons.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Applications – None

b. Agricultural Committee- Farmer’s Meeting

The topic of the annual Farmers Meeting will be Wildlife Management. The meeting will be held with the Agricultural Advisory board meeting on November 18th at 7:00 pm in the Owen Conference room at Townhall. Members of the TC, Deer Management, Environmental Commission, and Public will be invited.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Todd Edelstein discussed how the pumpkins would be smashed for future events, such as a sling shot. He also had suggestions on highway 287 right cleaning methods and gorilla gardening.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Debra DeWitt said that the Statements of Interest were submitted to the Clerk’s office for 2022. She also thanked Ann Parsekian for all her service to the Environmental Commission. The Great Swamp Watershed plant sale will be upcoming, a volunteer is needed to coordinate the event.

Nancy Cook suggested that for future meetings applications be reviewed prior to the meeting to streamline the process. This would provide more time to discuss and implement new projects for the EC.

Sarah Wolfson recommended a group visit to the package free shop in Morristown.

John Crane supported Nancy’s suggestion to expedite applications in the meeting discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at pm. Motion by Alice Smyk, seconded by Nancy Cook. All in favor, motion carried. 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine V. Andres, Meeting Secretary