



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Debra DeWitt called the meeting to order at 7:29 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: Debra DeWitt, John Crane, Todd Edelstein, Corey Fischer, James LaMaire, John Valeri Jr., Sarah Wolfson

Absent: Alice Smyk, Jennifer Asay, Nancy Cook

Also Present: Kaitlin Cartoccio, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the January 24, 2022 Reorganization minutes made by John Valeri Jr., seconded by Todd Edelstein. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to approve the January 24, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes made by John Crane, seconded by John Valeri Jr. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Roux – Freshwater Wetlands Letter General Permit 10B**
No comment

DISCUSSION

- a. Update General Application Comments**
General Application Comments will updated and sent around to the committee. No further discussion.
- b. Annual Report**
Debra DeWitt will submit the Annual Report to the Township Committee. No further comments.
- c. Subcommittee Reports**
- i. Applications - John Crane, James LaMaire and Corey Fischer**
No comment
 - ii. ANJEC - Nancy Cook, Alice Smyk and Todd Edelstein**
 - 1. Storm Water Resolution**
The Committee will look over the resolution before any further recommendation.
 - iii. Native Pollinator Group/Plant Sale – Debra DeWitt and Sarah Wolfson**
Plant sale starts April 1st. Other than that, the Native Pollinator Group has been hosting webinars and talking about native plants and pollinators.



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- iv. **Community Outreach/Education – Debra DeWitt and Nancy Cook**
Outreach continues to be posted to the Bernards Township main site and Facebook including a segment on what you can and cannot recycle.
- v. **Guerilla Gardening – Sarah Wolfson**
Currently planning to do more activities in the spring. Currently collecting jugs with a Ridge High School student to help with gardening.
- vi. **Charter Day/AmeriCorps Watershed Project**
 - 1. **Charter Day Information**
Looking for volunteers who are able to man the table at Charter Day.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Nash – ZB 21-037 – 61 Archgate Road – Front Yard Setback for a one-story open porch.**

No environmental concerns.

Motion by Corey Fischer, seconded by James LaMaire. All in favor, motion carried.

- b. **Bhatia – ZB 21-038 – 11 Parkwood Lane - “C” Variance – Pool not located behind rear building line of adjacent dwelling.**

The Commission notes that 5 trees will be taken down in the property and asks if the applicant will be replacing. If the trees are being placed, the Commission recommends native hardwood species be planted whenever practical. The Commission also notes isolated wetlands on the property, and that the applicant should note how large the wetlands are on the plan and whether the proposed fence encroaches on the wetlands on the eastern side of the property. 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 nonpoint source pollution. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water.

Motion by John Valeri Jr., seconded by Corey Fischer. All in favor, motion carried.

- c. **Yochum – ZB 22-001 – 58 Penwood Road - “C” variance for lot coverage (addition to existing dwelling).**

Regarding stormwater storage and recharge on this application, the side of the pool water surface is unclear. If it is over 600 sq feet, the storage will be addressed, but not the recharge. The Commission recommends that the Board ask the applicant to create a 599 sq foot recharge to account for a 1” rainfall instead of a 3” rainfall. 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 nonpoint source pollution. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants



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township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water.

Motion by Corey Fischer, seconded by John Crane. All in favor, motion carried.

- d. Maloney – ZB 22-003 – 109 Woodman Lane** – Variance to allow construction of an inground pool not located behind the rear building lines of adjacent dwellings.

The Commission suggests that Bernards Township professionals review whether any NJDEP plans are necessary. If so, the applicant should obtain a new NJDEP Letter of Interpretation. Due to the presence of freshwater wetlands on the property, best management practices should be used to protect sensitive ecological areas. The inlets should be covered with fabric to keep the recharge area from silt buildup. Additionally, the Commission would like to see the pool and pool deck moved away from the wetlands transition area. The applicant should state the drainage area going into the recharge area in square footage. The Commission recommends more spot elevation points on the grading plan and for contours to be labeled. The Environmental Commission notes the lack of tree removal/replacement on the plans. If trees are being replaced or new trees being added, the Commission recommends native hardwood species be planted whenever practical. Additionally, 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 nonpoint source pollution. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water.

Motion by Debra DeWitt, seconded by Corey Fischer. All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Debra DeWitt commented that the Shade Tree Commission got an email from a resident regarding bamboo. Bamboo is not included on the invasive “do not plant” list. The discussion was to remove it from the “recommended list “where it says “don’t plant” up to invasive list. John Valeri Jr asked if the Commission would be posting about the spotted lanternfly/ John Crane commented that the Planning Board would be updating the Master Plan including updates to infrastructure. Todd Edelstein asked if Master Plan gets updated every 10 years – how often does the natural resources inventory get updated? Last updated 2014. The decision was made to move Environmental Commission meetings to in-person starting in March. Sarah Wolfson noted that prior to COVID-19, the Commission was discussing composting and asked if that was a focus area for the group.



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ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm. Motion by John Valeri Jr., seconded by Debra DeWitt
All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Deb Dewitt, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: March 8, 2022

SUBJECT: Applications Review

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

Nash – ZB 21-037 – 61 Archgate Road

The Environmental Commission has no comments on this application.

Bhatia – ZB 21-038 – 11 Parkwood Lane

The Environmental Commission notes the ETI Wetlands Report dated 2/14/2022 indicating there are isolated wetlands on the property, delineated on the plan by A1 – A2 – A3. The applicant should show how large the isolated wetlands is on the plan and whether the proposed fence encroaches on the wetlands area on the east side of the property.

The Environmental Commission also notes that there appears to be 5 trees being removed in this 3-acre zone. Will the applicant be replacing them? If being replaced, the Commission recommends native hardwood species be planted whenever practical.

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 nonpoint source pollution. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water.

Yochum – ZB 22-001 – 58 Penwood Road

With respect to stormwater storage and recharge on this application, it is unclear the size of the pool water surface. If it is over 600 sq ft as it might appear, the storage will be addressed but not the recharge. The Environmental Commission would recommend that the Board asks the applicant to create a 599 sq ft recharge to account for a 1" rainfall v a 3" rainfall.

Additionally, 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 nonpoint source pollution. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water.



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Maloney – ZB 22-003 – 109 Woodman Lane

The Environmental Commission suggests the Board consider having the applicant obtain a new NJDEP approved Letter of Interpretation (LOI) and recommends our Bernards Township professionals review whether any NJDEP permits are necessary.

Due to the presence of freshwater wetlands on the subject property, best management practices to protect these sensitive ecological areas should be implemented during the site work (sediment and erosion controls). More specifically, the inlets should be covered with fabric to keep the recharge area from silt buildup. There is a minimum of 2,948 sq ft going to the recharge area to cover the additional impervious. Best management practices are also recommended post-construction (organic lawn care, protect and preserve natural soil, vegetation, and grading in buffer zones).

The Environmental Commission would like to see the pool deck/pool configuration moved away from the Wetlands transition average and for the applicant to state the drainage area going into the recharge area in square footage. Additionally, the Commission recommends more spot elevation points on the grading plan and labeling of the contours.

The Environmental Commission notes the lack of tree removal/replacement on the plans. If trees are being replaced or new trees being added, the Commission recommends native hardwood species be planted whenever practical.

Additionally, 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 nonpoint source pollution. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water.

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