



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – June 27, 2022 – 7pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Debra DeWitt called the meeting to order at 7:08 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: Debra DeWitt, Jennifer Asay (arrived ~7:45 pm), John Crane, Todd Edelstein (Alternate 1), Corey Fischer, John Valeri Jr (arrived ~7:15 pm).

Absent: Alice Smyk, Nancy Cook James LaMaire, Sarah Wolfson (Alternate 2)

Also Present: Kaitlin Cartoccio, Recording Secretary, Grace Wollmuth – Resident, Octave Lalliot – Resident

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the May 23, 2022 minutes made by John Crane seconded by Todd Edelstein. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEUS CORRESPONDENCE

- a. VanCleaf Letter – Received a memo because the road is adjacent to Bernards Township, but the property is in Warren Township. No comments.
- b. Roux Letter – Consultant about freshwater permit for Verizon – no comment.
- c. Suburban Letter – No comments
- d. Resident Email/ Signs – A resident had a concern about all the signs on peoples lawns celebrating their graduations. Debra DeWitt said she would draft a reply. Resident Grace Wollmuth had a suggestion – Perhaps the town could lead an effort to collect signs, cut them up for disposal. Get a drop off box in municipal area and shredder possibly. Debra DeWitt suggested if they're unable to do that, then maybe make it the tip of the week next year for residents.

DISCUSSION

a. Subcommittees

1. Applications

None

2. ANJEC

None.

3. Native Pollinator Group/Plant Sale

None.

4. Community Outreach/Education

None



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5. Guerilla Gardening

None

6. Spotted Lanternfly Park Project

Patch covered the story. Some of the traps in the parks have blown away so they'll have to be checked on.

7. NJ DEP New Emergency Rule

Discussion surrounding the NJDEP Emergency Rule. John Valeri Jr. said he'd read into it further and report back.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Status on Current Projects

None

NEW BUSINESS

a. Kocheck – ZB 22-006 – 143 Finley Ave – Construct detached 2 car garage – bulk variance for side yard & yard setback.

The Environmental Commission notes that the existing and proposed lot coverage exceeds the maximum. Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area wide flooding. Site drainage is still a concern with this application, therefore 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/>). The Commission asks the applicant to consider using pervious pavers instead of the larger bluestone which will allow for better water infiltration/seepage. 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.

There was discussion on adding tree removal to the Master Comments.

Motion by John Valeri Jr, seconded by Corey Fischer.

All in favor, motion carried.

b. Gilbert – ZB 22-008 – 18 Belmont Court – Pool not located behind the rear building line of adjacent dwellings.

The Environmental Commission would like the applicant to clarify how the deck will be raised from the ground with spot elevations of the deck to the ground beneath it to allow water infiltration/seepage. The Commission also notes that the concept plan and the site plan are different regarding the shed. The applicants should adjust the lot coverage if the shed is going to be installed. The Commission would also like the patio removal to be clearly marked out and shown on the plan. 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



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cause damage to the receiving environment in the form of non-point source pollution. The Commission suggests utilizing the best management practices available when discharging pool water.

Motion by Corey Fischer seconded by John Valeri Jr.

All in favor, motion carried.

- c. Pruss – ZB 22-009 – 85 Springhouse Lane** – Lot coverage variance to install an inground pool & related pool equipment.

The Environmental Commission notes the existing and proposed 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 still a concern with this application, therefore 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/>).

The Commission asks the applicant to consider putting the soil erosion fence to the edge of the rear driveway and the tracking pad to provide access to the construction area.

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. The Commission suggests utilizing the best management practices available when discharging pool water.

Motion by Todd Edelstein, seconded by John Valeri Jr.

All in favor, motion carried.

- d. Patel – ZB 22-010 – 17 River Farm Lane** – Construction of an inground pool, pavilion, patio & walkways. Pool not located behind real building line of adjacent dwelling.

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. The Commission notes a lack of a soil erosion plan and requests the applicant provide one. 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. The Commission suggests utilizing the best management practices available when discharging pool water.



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Motion by John Crane, seconded by Todd Edelstein.

All in favor, motion carried.

- e. **Leis– ZB 22-012 – 97 Juniper Way** – (c) Variance for maximum allowable coverage to construct an addition.

The Environmental Commission notes the existing and proposed 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 still a concern with this application, therefore 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/>)

Motion by JCF, seconded by TE.

All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Both residents visiting the meeting noted that their time there was interesting and educational.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

John Valeri Jr noted he would be unable to make the July meeting. He also noted that there’s a new collaboration between the New Jersey Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. <https://www.nj.gov/health/hcpnj/>

John Crane noted that the Planning Board will be reviewing the sustainability plan for Bernards Township with information from the Green Team.

Debra DeWitt encouraged members to think of ideas for upcoming tips of the week. She suggested invasive species.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. Motion by Todd Edelstein, seconded by John Crane. 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

DATE: June 28, 2022

SUBJECT: Application Review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their **June 27, 2022** meeting and forwards the following comments:

Kochek – ZB22-006 – 143 Finley Avenue

The Environmental Commission notes existing and proposed lot coverage exceeds the maximum amount (1,211 sq ft over allowable, 681 sq ft from existing to proposed). Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area wide flooding. Site drainage is still a concern with this application, therefore 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/>).

The Commission asks the applicant to consider using pervious pavers instead of the larger bluestone which will allow for better water infiltration/seepage.

Lastly, 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.

Gilbert – ZB22-008 – 18 Belmont Court

The Environmental Commission would like the applicant to clarify how the deck will be raised from the ground with spot elevations of the deck to the ground beneath it to allow water infiltration/seepage.

Upon review, the Commission notes that the concept plan and the site plan are different, particularly regarding the shed. The applicants should adjust the lot coverage if the shed is going to be installed.

The Commission would also like the patio removal to be clearly marked out and shown on the plan.

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.



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Pruss – ZB22-009 – 85 Spring House Lane

The Environmental Commission notes the existing and proposed lot coverage exceeds the maximum amount (1,522 sq ft over allowable coverage less pool of 800 sq ft equals 722 sq ft over). Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area wide flooding. Site drainage is still a concern with this application, therefore 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/>).

The Commission asks the applicant to consider putting the soil erosion fence to the edge of the rear driveway and the tracking pad to provide access to the construction area.

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.

Patel – ZB22-010 – 17 River Farm Lane

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.

The Commission notes a lack of a soil erosion plan and requests the applicant provide one.

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.

Leis – ZB22-012 – 97 Juniper Way

The Environmental Commission notes the existing and proposed lot coverage exceeds the maximum amount (overage of 2,584 sq ft from allowed). Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area wide flooding. Site drainage is still a concern with this application, therefore 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/>)

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