



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – July 25, 2022 – 7pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Debra DeWitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Alice Smyk, Jennifer Asay, John Crane, Todd Edelstein (Alternate 1), James LaMaire,

Absent: Nancy Cook, Corey Fischer, John Valeri Jr, Sarah Wolfson (Alternate 2)

Also Present: Kaitlin Cartoccio, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the June 27, 2022 minutes made by Todd Edelstein seconded by John Crane. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

a. Application for LOI04 Colts Glen

No comments.

DISCUSSION

a. Subcommittees

1. Applications

Debra DeWitt commented that she made some changes and 2 additions to the General Comments for the Environmental Commission including comments on items such as tree permits, lead paint and asbestos

2. ANJEC

Rutgers is holding a climate change training on July 27th. July is known as “plastic free July”. The summer 2022 report is out. Debra DeWitt commented that ANJEC was aware of and reached out regarding the EC’s spotted lanternfly project.

3. Native Pollinator Group/Plant Sale

The group is looking for Bernards Township Environmental Commission representation on their Zoom meetings.

4. Community Outreach/Education

Based on last month’s citizen letter regarding plastic graduation signs, Debra DeWitt created a PDF to share information on properly disposing of the signs.

5. Guerilla Gardening

None



6. 2 H Projects/Activities

The EC will be hosting the Pumpkin Smash again this fall. Date TBD.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Status on Current Projects

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Blauvelt – ZB 07-012A – 20 Lewis** – Modification of condition to allow separate uses in the existing building.

No comment.

Motion by John Crane, seconded by Alice Smyk.

All in favor, motion carried.

- b. Dietrich – ZB 22-007 – 33 Manchester** – Conditional use/bulk var for a personal trainer's practice.

No comment

Motion by Todd Edelstein seconded by John Crane.

All in favor, motion carried.

- c. Jordano Living Trust – ZB 22-011 – 37 Nickolas Way** – Exceed max allowable impervious coverage to replace an existing screen porch.

Alice Smyk recused herself at 7:21 pm.

The Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography storm water best management practices should be given extra consideration during site work and as part of final site grading and restoration. The applicant should clarify that a silt fence will be installed by the retaining wall during the reconstruction.

The Commission also notes the existing 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 a concern with this application, therefore site features to promote the recharge of stormwater from the roof leaders should be considered. Removing the addition of the shed or reducing other impervious features can further mitigate stormwater runoff concerns. The New Jersey



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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 notes that a tree inventory is not noted on the plan and asks that the applicant discuss whether any trees will be removed as part of the construction. Implementation of best management practices to preserve and protect trees during the site work should be considered.

The Commission would like to see the applicant add the total square footage of disturbance which is required but not noted on the plan.

Motion by Todd Edelstein, seconded by John Valeri Jr.

All in favor, motion carried.

- d. Monk – ZB 22-013 – 489 King George Road** – (c) Variance for front yard setback to construct a two-story addition.

Alice Smyk returned at 7:33 pm.

The Commission notes that a site plan and soil erosion plan is required and has not been submitted with this application.

The Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography storm water best management practices should be given extra consideration during site work and as part of final site grading and restoration. In addition, implementation of best management practices to preserve and protect trees during the site work should be considered.

The Commission notes the existing 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 a concern with this application, therefore site 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 notes that a tree inventory is not depicted on the plan and asks that the applicant discuss whether any trees are being removed as part of the construction.

Due to the age of the existing dwelling, the Commission would like the applicant to be aware of the potential for in-ground tanks, lead paint and asbestos. Proper precautions should be taken during demolition.

During demolition, the Commission asks the applicant to consider recycling, repurposing, or gifting any material that is not being reused with this application.



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Motion by Alice Smyk, seconded by James LaMaire.

All in favor, motion carried.

- e. Fenwick Basking Ridge HOA – PB 22-002 – 11 Fenwick Place** – Modification of condition of approval (PB 11-011) prohibiting structures such as fences & irrigation systems in easement.

The Commission is unable to determine the environmental impact from the information provided. If the applicant is seeking approval to install a fence in the easement and the Planning Board intends to approve, the Commission would recommend an open-style fence (fence constructed with openings of fifty percent or more to more easily see through the fence), in a dark color, installed close to the rear property line to allow trees to grow.

Motion by James LaMaire, seconded by Alice Smyk.

All in favor, motion carried.

- f. USGA – PB 22-003 – 77 Liberty Corner Road** – Amended prelim/final site plan for alternative parking lot configuration.

The Commission notes the presence of freshwater wetlands and a surface water body on the subject property. Best management practices to protect these sensitive ecological areas should be implemented during the site work (sediment and erosion controls) and post-construction (organic lawn care, protect and preserve natural soil, vegetation, and grading in buffer zones and within the stream).

The Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography storm water best management practices should be given extra consideration during site work and as part of final site grading and restoration. In addition, implementation of best management practices to preserve and protect trees during the site work should be considered.

The Commission notes that if any tree permits have been taken out and the replacement of same. Regarding this application, the Environmental Commission feels that long-term tree survivability should be the goal of any tree replacement plan and that native hardwood species should be selected whenever practicable.

The Commission asks the applicant to consider recycling, repurposing, or gifting any material that is not being reused during demolition with this application.

Motion by John Crane, seconded by Todd Edelstein.

All in favor, motion carried.



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PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Todd Edelstein mentioned a local nearby commission hosting a duck race. There was some discussion about the August meeting happening with vacations and other absences.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. Motion by Debra DeWitt, seconded by John Crane. All in favor, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary*



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Planning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Deb DeWitt, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: July 26, 2022

SUBJECT: Application Review

The Environmental Commission reviewed this application at its July 25, 2022 meeting and has the following comments:

Fenwick Basking Ridge HOA – PB22-002, 11 Fenwick Place

Without knowing what the applicant intends to do if the modification of condition is approved by the Planning Board, the Commission is unable to determine the environmental impact. If the applicant is seeking approval to install a fence in the easement and the Planning Board is inclined to approve, the Commission would recommend an open-style fence (fence constructed with openings of fifty percent or more in order to more easily see through the fence), in a dark color, installed close to the rear property line to allow trees to grow.

USGA – PB22-003, 77 Liberty Corner Road

The Environmental Commission notes the presence of freshwater wetlands and a surface water body on the subject property. Best management practices to protect these sensitive ecological areas should be implemented during the site work (sediment and erosion controls) and post-construction (organic lawn care, protect and preserve natural soil, vegetation, and grading in buffer zones and within the stream).

The Environmental Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography storm water best management practices should be given extra consideration during site work and as part of final site grading and restoration. In addition, implementation of best management practices to preserve and protect trees during the site work should be considered.

The Commission would like to note if any tree permits have been taken out and the replacement of same. Regarding this application, the Environmental Commission feels that long-term tree survivability should be the goal of any tree replacement plan and that native hardwood species should be selected whenever practicable.

During demolition, the Environmental Commission asks the applicant to consider recycling, repurposing, or gifting any material that is not being reused with this application.

Cc: David Schley, Township Planner
Cyndi Kiefer, Secretary; for distribution to PB members and Attorney to applicant



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Deb DeWitt, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: July 26, 2022

SUBJECT: Application Review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their July 25, 2022 meeting and forwards the following comments:

Blauvelt – ZB07-012A – 20 Lewis Street

The Environmental Commission has no comments on this application

Dietrich – ZB22-007 – 33 Manchester Drive

The Environmental Commission has no comments on this application

Jordano Living Trust – ZB22-011 – 37 St. Nickolas Way

The Environmental Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography storm water best management practices should be given extra consideration during site work and as part of final site grading and restoration. The Commission would like the applicant to clarify that a silt fence will be installed by the retaining wall during the reconstruction.

The Environmental Commission notes the existing 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 a concern with this application, therefore site features to promote the recharge of stormwater from the roof leaders should be considered. Removing the addition of the shed or reducing other impervious features can further mitigate stormwater runoff concerns. 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 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. In addition, implementation of best management practices to preserve and protect trees during the site work should be considered.

The Commission would like to see the applicant add a note regarding the total square footage of disturbance which is required but not depicted on the plan.

In 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



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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.

Monk – ZB22-013 – 489 King George Road

The Environmental Commission notes that a site plan and soil erosion plan is required and has not been submitted with this application.

The Environmental Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography storm water best management practices should be given extra consideration during site work and as part of final site grading and restoration. In addition, implementation of best management practices to preserve and protect trees during the site work should be considered.

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During demolition, the Environmental Commission asks the applicant to consider recycling, repurposing, or gifting any material that is not being reused with this application.

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