

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting of [April 24, 2023](#) - 7 pm Municipal**  
**Building, Warren Craft Room**  
**1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ**

**Meeting Agenda**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Open Public Meeting Statement**
- 3. Flag Salute**
- 4. Roll Call**
- 5. Approval of EC meeting minutes regular – [March 27, 2023](#)**
- 6. Reports and Miscellaneous Correspondence**
  - a.
  - b.

**Discussion**

Subcommittee Reports

- i. Applications Review: John Crane, John Valeri, Todd Edelstein
- ii. ANJEC email monitoring / important educational webinars: Todd Edelstein
- iii. Native Pollinator Group: Sarah Wolfson
  1. Small pollinator garden on township owned property.
- iv. Community Outreach / Education: Nancy Cook
- v. Guerilla Gardening: Sarah Wolfson
- vi. Tree Protection: John Valeri

**7. Old Business**

**a. Status on Current Projects:**

- i. Native Plant Sale
- ii. Discuss how to get help with distribution

**8. New Business**

**Applications**

- i. .
- ii.
- iii. .

**9. Comments by Public**

**10. Comments by Members**

**11. Adjournment**

Ellen Houlihan, Secretary



Please call (908) 204 - 3000 seventy-two (72) hours in advance if accommodations are required, including Assistive listening devices (ALD).



## ***Bernards Township Environmental Commission***



### **BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – March 27, 2023**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Alice Smyk called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm in the Warren Craft Room, Bernards Township Municipal Building in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Present: Present:** Nancy Cook, Elizabeth Cirri, John Crane, Alice Smyk, John Valeri Jr., Sarah Wolfson

**Absent:** Jennifer Asay, Todd Edelstein

**Also Present:** Kaitlin Cartoccio, Recording Secretary, Sharon Sigmund - Resident, Arabella Sigmund – Resident

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Motion to approve the February 27, 2023 meeting minutes made by John Valeri Jr., seconded by Sarah Wolfson. All in favor, motion carried.

#### **GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PRESENTATION**

Nancy Cook made a motion to allow Arabella Sigmund (173 Somerville Road), junior at Ridge High School present her Girl Scout Gold Award project to the Commission before official business starts. Elizabeth Cirri seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried Arabella's project encourages community-wide composting where people can drop off items to be composted at centralized locations like the town parks. The benefits are numerous including alleviating the burden on landfills and leading to cleaner air. Nancy Cook has agreed to be Arabella's advisor, and Arabella is looking for several well-educated adults to join her team. Nancy Cook suggested that Arabella first present to Parks & Recreation and if a spot in a local park cannot be secured, she should present to the Environmental Education Center. Sarah Wolfson and Elizabeth Cirri indicated interest in joining Arabella's team. John Crane mentioned mice and rats could be a potential nuisance and barrier to the project. Nancy Cook said that she would work with Arabella to address that issue.



## **REPORTS & MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. **Parking Engineering Letter**  
No comment.
  
- b. **PK Environmental Letter**  
No comment.
  
- c. **Kessel Email**  
The Environmental Commission is going to reach back out invite the sender to a Commission meeting to present their content.
  
- d. **EcoSciences Letter**  
No comment.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. **Applications** - No comment.
  
- b. **ANJEC** - The Environmental Commission will be applying for an ANJEC grant for community gardens.
  
- c. **Native Pollinator Group/Guerilla Gardening** - Sarah Wolfson reached out to the Bernards Township Library. Upper level of the Library on Maple Ave is available for gardening. Basking Ridge Gardening Club gardens in the back. Location acquired, next a budget. A sign needs to be put at the Library indicating the Environmental Commission's involvement.
  
- d. **Community Outreach/Education** - Native Plant Sale - May 6th 11 am - 1 pm. No volunteer email sign up yet. Site goes live April 3rd at 1 pm. Needs to be advertised.
  
- e. **Tree Protection** - No new update.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Status on Current Projects**  
Planting trees along roadway medians. Pat Monaco is very supportive, just need to reach out to DPW to confirm.



**NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Applications**

**i. Regino - ZB 23-031 - 99 Old Farm Road** – Variance to construct an in-ground pool not located behind the rear building line of adjacent residence.

The Environmental Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography stormwater 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 asks the Board to suggest that applicants increasing impervious coverage manage stormwater runoff by planting native trees or shrubs. The roots of these plants will take up water and promote conditions that allow soil to retain water. Adding plants can mitigate the decreased water infiltration imposed by the new impervious coverage. Please refer to the Recommended Tree and Shrub List for an introductory list of native plants available at local nurseries.

The Commission would like to bring to the Board's attention the steep slopes shown on the plan and recommend that testimony be given about stabilization for vegetation purposes.

The Commission would like to note if any tree permits have been taken out and the replacement of the same. In regard to 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.

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.

John Valeri Jr. made a motion, Nancy Cook seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**ii. Koenig - ZB 22-032 - 113 Culberson Road** - Construction of in-ground pool not located behind rear building line of adjacent dwelling.

The plan shows a 150 ft riparian zone and Township Zone one and two. The applicant should be made aware of the proposed change in the stream buffer ordinance for April 25, 2023 to be voted on by the Township Committee.



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The applicant should coordinate the lot coverage. The applicant says 6.6%, the engineer shows 6.1%. The decking steps of 360 square feet may affect the coverage calculations.

The Environmental Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography stormwater 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 asks the Board to suggest that applicants increasing impervious coverage manage stormwater runoff by planting native trees or shrubs. The roots of these plants will take up water and promote conditions that allow soil to retain water. Adding plants can mitigate the decreased water infiltration imposed by the new impervious coverage. Please refer to the Recommended Tree and Shrub List for an introductory list of native plants available at local nurseries.

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.

The Commission would like to note if any tree permits have been taken out and the replacement of the same. In regard to 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.

Regarding this application, the Environmental Commission would like to see a tree removal and replacement plan. Long-term tree survivability should be the goal of any tree replacement plan and native hardwood species should be selected 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.

John Valeri Jr, made a motion, Nancy Cook seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

### **iii. Lambert - ZB 23-002 - 123 Fieldstone Dr – Add single car garage.**

Regarding this application, the Environmental Commission would like to see a tree removal and replacement plan. Long-term tree survivability should be the goal of any tree replacement plan and native hardwood species should be selected whenever practical.

The Commission asks the Board to suggest that applicants increasing impervious coverage manage stormwater runoff by planting native trees or shrubs. The roots of these plants will take up water and promote conditions that allow soil to retain water. Adding



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plants can mitigate the decreased water infiltration imposed by the new impervious coverage. Please refer to the Recommended Tree and Shrub List for an introductory list of native plants available at local nurseries.

Sarah Wolfson made a motion, Elizabeth Cirri seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**iv. Jacobs - ZB 23-003 - 270 Childs Rd** – Demolish existing house & replace with new dwelling.

In regard to this application, the Environmental Commission would like to see a tree removal and replacement plan. Long-term tree survivability should be the goal of any tree replacement plan and native hardwood species should be selected whenever practical.

The Commission asks the Board to suggest that applicants increasing impervious coverage manage stormwater runoff by planting native trees or shrubs. The roots of these plants will take up water and promote conditions that allow soil to retain water. Adding plants can mitigate the decreased water infiltration imposed by the new impervious coverage. Please refer to the Recommended Tree and Shrub List for an introductory list of native plants available at local nurseries.

The Environmental Commission notes that due to the site and surrounding topography stormwater 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.

Elizabeth Cirri made a motion, John Crane seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public.

### **MEMBER COMMENT**

Elizabeth Cirri introduced herself. She's a long-time resident of Bernards Township. Her background is mostly focused on healthcare, no formal environmental background but she's interested in being part of the community and learning more about the environment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm. Motion by Nancy Cook seconded by John Valeri Jr. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary



## *Bernards Township Environmental Commission*

**TO:** Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

**FROM:** Alice Smyk, Chairperson  
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

**DATE:** March 30, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Application Review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their March 27, 2023, meeting and forwards the following comments:

### **ZB 23-002 Lambert – 123 Fieldstone Dr**

#### **Highlights:**

Maximum cover allowed 15% 6,534 square footage.  
Existing coverage 8.9% 3,912 square feet  
Proposed coverage 10.9% 4,747 square feet.  
An increase of 835 ft of coverage

#### **Comments:**

Regarding this application, the Environmental Commission would like to see a tree removal and replacement plan. Long-term tree survivability should be the goal of any tree replacement plan and native hardwood species should be selected whenever practical.

The Commission asks the Board to suggest that applicants increasing impervious coverage manage stormwater runoff by planting native trees or shrubs. The roots of these plants will take up water and promote conditions that allow soil to retain water. Adding plants can mitigate the decreased water infiltration imposed by the new impervious coverage. Please refer to the Recommended Tree and Shrub List for an introductory list of native plants available at local nurseries.

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### **ZB 23 003 B 501 L 9 - R1 Zone 3 acre - 270 Childs Road**

#### **Highlights:**

Demolish existing home and replace it with new dwelling.  
Lot size 123,275 square feet  
15% coverage allowed.  
10.58 percent coverage existing  
Proposed coverage 11.30%

#### **Comments:**

Regarding this application, the Environmental Commission would like to see a tree removal and replacement plan. Long-term tree survivability should be the goal of any tree replacement plan and native hardwood species should be selected whenever practical.

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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.

### **ZB 22.031 B 301 L 3 Regino - 99 Old Farm Road - R1 Zone 3 acres**

#### **Highlights:**

Variance to build an inground pool not located behind the rear building line of adjacent residence.  
Lot size 127,224 square feet  
Allowable coverage 15% 19,038 square feet  
Existing coverage 11.10% 14,184 square feet  
Proposed coverage 15,721 square feet 12.36%  
Additional cover 1537 square feet  
Coverage for storm recharge calculation 1,061 square feet  
Disturbance 6,030 square feet  
Lot goes from elevation 560 to 450.



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### **Comments:**

It appears on the east side of the pool that the limit disturbance might not be fully shown going from elevation 184 to 182.

The applicant should comply with checklist item number 10 regarding Wetlands.

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 asks the Board to suggest that applicants increasing impervious coverage manage stormwater runoff by planting native trees or shrubs. The roots of these plants will take up water and promote conditions that allow soil to retain water. Adding plants can mitigate the decreased water infiltration imposed by the new impervious coverage. Please refer to the Recommended Tree and Shrub List for an introductory list of native plants available at local nurseries.

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The Commission would like to bring to the Board's attention the steep slopes shown on the plan and recommends that testimony be given about stabilization for vegetation purposes.

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.

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.



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**ZB 22 032 B 26.01 L 1 - R2 zone 2 acres - 113 Culberson Road**

### **Highlights:**

Variance to construct an in-ground pool not located behind the rear building line of adjacent dwelling.

Allowable coverage 15% 18,488 square feet

Existing coverage 5%, 6,175 square feet

Proposed coverage 6.1% 7,585 ft.

Proposed increase in coverage 1,410 square feet.

Total square feet 893 square feet for stormwater recharge calculations

### **Comments:**

The plan shows a 150 ft riparian Zone and Township Zone one and two the applicant should be made aware of proposed changes in stream buffer ordinance for April 25, 2023, to be voted on by the township committee.

The applicant should coordinate the lot coverage as the application says States 6.6%, the engineer shows 6.1% the decking steps of 360 square feet if are open may affect the coverage calculations.

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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Regarding this application, the Environmental Commission would like to see a tree removal and replacement plan. Long-term tree survivability should be the goal of any tree replacement plan and native hardwood species should be selected whenever practical.

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