

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**Regular Meeting of [July 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 – [June 24, 2023](#)**
- 6. Reports and Miscellaneous Correspondence**
 - a. [Lee Cleary Email](#)**
 - b. [Compost Email](#)**

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. Tree Protection: John Valeri

7. Old Business

- a. Status on Current Projects:**

8. New Business

Applications

.

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 – June 26, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Alice Smyk called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm in the Warren Craft Room, Bernards Township Municipal Building in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975.

ROLL CALL

Present: John Crane, Todd Edelstein, Alice Smyk, John Valeri, Jr., Sarah Wolfson

Absent: Gary Bauman, Elizabeth Cirri, Nancy Cook

Also Present: Kate Ferrante, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the May 22, 2023, meeting minutes made by Todd Edelstein, seconded by Sarah Wolfson. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to approve the April 24, 2023, meeting minutes tabled from May meeting made by Todd Edelstein, seconded by Sarah Wolfson. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

a. US Fish & Wildlife Email

No comments

DISCUSSION

Subcommittee Reports

a. **Applications** – see New Business

a. **ANJEC** – No comments



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- c. **Native Pollinator Group/Guerilla Gardening** – Sarah Wolfson – Pollen testing has been completed and Rutgers has samples. Susan is looking for Rutgers programs to pay for plants, but that is not the first priority. They are looking for help with landscape design and will present plan to the library, this is pending. The library had some questions all of which have been answered. Inquiry needs to be pursued with the DPW to confirm if they can provide compost and mulch. Sarah will meet with Susan next month. John Crane noted the Township rejected bids for improvements on handicap accommodations and it is on the town agenda for tomorrow. Sarah advised that until there is a plan and design, they did not want to burden the library as they are busy. Sarah is looking at a timeline to plant by the Fall Sarah and will work on plan to present for the next meeting.
- d. **Community Outreach/Education** - No update.
- e. **Tree Protection** – John Valeri - Two applications one was for a dead tree, the other was given a recommendation to trim the trees. Alice added there are many dead trees within the town. It is homeowner's responsibility to maintain their trees.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Status on Current Projects

Todd contacted Pat Monaco about styrofoam recycling. Ryan Walsh is trying to get in contact with Long Hill DPW

NEW BUSINESS

a. Applications

- i. **Wadhwa / Mohan – ZB 23-005** – 16 Chaucer Court – Construction of in-ground pool and amenities requiring relief for maximum impervious coverage & not behind the rear building line (Lot 20).

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 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. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Infrastructure website is a good reference for “green” stormwater management practices for homeowners.



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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.

In regards 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 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.

John Valeri Made a motion, Sarah Wolfson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

- ii. **Faruk – ZB 23-009** – 145 Bernards Dr – “C” variance for exceeding maximum coverage allowed – construction of in-ground pool, patio, pavilion & walkway.

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 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. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Infrastructure website is a good reference for “green” stormwater management practices for homeowners.

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John Valeri Made a motion, Todd Edelstein seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

- iii. **Stowe – ZB 23-010** – 11 Culberson Rd – Relief for maximum lot coverage & maximum height of any accessory building to construct a 2 story, 2 car detached garage.

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 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. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Infrastructure website is a good reference for “green” stormwater management practices for homeowners.

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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.

Todd Edelstein made a motion, Sarah Wolfson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

- iv. **Maio- ZB 23-012** – 444 Mt. Airy Rd – Disturbance of steep slopes.
Sarah Wolfson

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 bring to the Board's attention the steep slopes shown on the plan and recommends that testimony be give about stabilization for vegetation purposes.

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

John Valeri Made a motion, Todd seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

- v. **Presbyterian Church** – no comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

MEMBER COMMENT

John Valeri, Jr. to add native plant comment to EC Generic Comments. Sarah Wolfson would like the list of Native Plants updated on the town website. Todd Edelstein saw an article in the Bernardsville News about an organized group of people who perform minor repairs on household items to lower the quantity of items being sent to the dump. Alice Smyk noted the townwide garage sale should be put on the town website. Todd would like to see a tip of the month regarding mosquito issues added to the town website.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm. Motion by Todd Edelstein seconded by John Valeri All in favor, motion carried.



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Ferrante, Meeting Secretary



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Alice Smyk, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: June 27, 2023

SUBJECT: Application Review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their June 26, 2023, meeting and forwards the following comments:

Wadhwa / Mohan – ZB 23-005 – 16 Chaucer Court:

Construction of in-ground pool and amenities requiring relief for maximum impervious coverage & not behind the rear building line (Lot 20).

Highlights:

- Allowed coverage 15% 6,280 sf
- Existing coverage 15.5% 6,488 sf
- Proposed coverage 19.8% 8,266 sf
- Increased coverage 1,787
- Coverage over allowable 1,986 sf
- Pool water surface 800 square feet estimated
- The applicant is proposing recharge
- Disturbance 7,500 square feet

Comments:

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 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. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green



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Infrastructure website is a good reference for “green” stormwater management practices for homeowners (<http://www.nju.gov/dep/gi/>).

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.

https://www.bernards.org/?option=com_fileman&view=file&routed=1&name=Tree%20and%20Shrub%20Replacement%20List.pdf&folder=Environmental&container=fileman-files

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.



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Faruk – ZB 23-009 – 145 Bernards Dr:

“C” variance for exceeding maximum coverage allowed – construction of in-ground pool, patio, pavilion & walkway.

Highlights:

- Allowable coverage 20% 4,361 sf
- Existing coverage 20.9% 4,557 sf
- Proposed coverage 29.1% 6,342 sf
- Increase coverage 1,776 sf
- Coverage over allowed 1,981 sf
- Pool water surface 800 square feet estimated
- Total recharge required 976 sf
- Limit of disturbance over 2,500 square feet estimated
- The applicant is proposing recharge

Comments:

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 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. 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/>).

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Stowe – ZB 23-010 – 11 Culberson Rd:

Relief for maximum lot coverage & maximum height of any accessory building to construct a 2 story, 2 car detached garage.

Highlights:

- Permitted coverage 18% 7,467 sf
- Existing coverage 18.54% 7,691 sf
- Proposed coverage 21.58% 8,950 sf
- Coverage increase 1,259 sf
- The applicant is proposing a seepage tank for storm water

Comments:

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 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. 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/>).

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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.



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Maio- ZB 23-012 – 444 Mt. Airy Rd:

Disturbance of steep slopes

Highlights:

- Permitted coverage 15% 8,196 sf.
- Existing coverage 8.3% 4,553 sf.
- Proposed coverage 10.1% 5,546 sf.
- Increase coverage 993 sf,
- Disturbance 39,050 Sf
- Tree replacement to be provided per Township standards as stated on Note 8 of the engineering plans.
- Exceeding the slope disturbance 15% percent to 19.9% 378 sf.
- Exceeding the 20% to 25% slopes 2,846 sf.
- Exceeding the > 25% slopes 10,339 sf

Comments:

The applicant should consider a safety fence on the upper tier of the highest East retaining wall for wildlife safety.

The applicant should consider under drains for the retaining walls that would discharge to a seepage pit to control soil erosion and promote recharge.

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 bring to the Board's attention the steep slopes shown on the plan and recommends that testimony be give 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.

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

Ellen Houlihan

From: Lee Cleary <leecleary@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:02 PM
To: Ellen Houlihan
Subject: Environmental Commission

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I'll be serving as Environmental Chair for the Basking Ridge Garden Club and thought I'd bring township environmental issues to the membership.

How can individuals best make an impact in our town? (Aside from the usual recycle, conserve water, etc)

The website mentions "Weekly Tips" but I couldn't find a link. Are they still available?

What would volunteers to your board do?

What does your board do?

Any suggestions about what our membership should know?

Thanks,
Lee Cleary

Ellen Houlihan

From: Emily Denning <emily.denning5053@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:34 AM
To: Ellen Houlihan
Subject: Composting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello,

In an effort to support sustainability, could Bernards Township start a composting program? There are many farms nearby that could benefit. If the town could provide composting bins and instructions to homes and collect compost weekly or every other week, this could significantly help reduce landfill waste. I would be willing to help support this issue. I live in Basking Ridge.

Thank you,
Emily Denning