

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
FINAL MINUTES – April 12, 2010
Approved, May 10, 2010

Joseph Speeney called the meeting to order in the First Floor Conference Room of Bernards Township Municipal Building, One Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, New Jersey at 7:30 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975.

ROLL CALL

Present: Paula Axt Bert Fonde Shiva Raju
Joseph Speeney Jennifer Viola John Malay (left 8pm)

Absent: Stephen Brown-Klinger, Betsy Schulenburg, Robert Vogt

Guests: Linda Lordi, resident; Christine Stadtmueller, resident; Nathan Susanj, Patch.com

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Bert Fonde, second by Paula Axt to accept the minutes of 03/08/10. All were in favor, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

- **Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)** – Tom Fitzsimons continues to work on this project.
- **Shade Tree List** – Randy of the Shade Tree Commission continues to work on an updated list.
- **Charter Day** – The schedule, setup/break down, and items at the booth were discussed. Bert gave the previous supplies and display boards to Joe. Joe will contact Pat Monaco in regards to supplying information on wood chips available at the Pill Hill facility. Joe will also bring his personal reference books that were well received last year and put the information on purchasing these on the EC Web page.
- **Pesticide Concern**
Little League Complex
Joe reported that Pat Monaco met with representatives from the Little League and had a positive response regarding pesticide free lawn care. No pesticide flags have been seen at the field and opening day is approaching.

Joe reported on an aggressive “no pesticide” program adopted by Lawrence Township where residents are being asked to sign-on to the program with lawn placards displaying their participation being used. Water testing samples have been collected and will be compared to samples 1 year from now to measure the program’s impact. Joe will forward the article for members to see if something like this can be done in Bernards Township.
- **Quarry** – no report; remove from future agendas at this time.
- **Open Space Stewardship** – No report at this time.

DEP APPLICATIONS

#10-14 – Notice dated 03/05/10 from Carl Abken re: 29 Sunset Ln., Block 11601, Lot 14 for DEP application for general permit for septic system.

The current septic system failed and the only area for a new system is within the wetland area. This is due to the fact that no reserve area was ever required and the only area on the property that would have been suitable was used for a pool years ago so the Commission sees no alternative.

#10-27 – Notice dated 03/24/10 from Daniel Kiessler re: 34 Autumn Dr., Block 3901, Lot 63 for DEP application for general permit #8 for construction of an addition

It appears that this application will require variances from the town and the Commission therefore reserves their comments for that time.

Development Applications

Planning Board

- **Gibson, 28 Brittany Pl., Block 5602, Lot 13 – Amended Minor Subdivision for driveway**
Since the driveway already exists, the Commission notes no environmental concerns at this time.
- **Gibson, 28 Brittany Pl., Block 5602, Lot 13 – Modification of Condition of Approval – setbacks for home**
The Commission notes no environmental concerns at this time as long as the applicant does not build within the wetland buffers.

Board of Adjustment

- **Somar, 12 Green Mountain Rd., Block 10301, Lot 37 – Lot coverage for pool/patio installed**
In regards to this application, the pool/patio which was installed is significantly over the allowable lot coverage limit and was not built according to the approved plan. The Commission recommends that no additional impervious coverage area be granted and that the applicant adjust the coverage area to conform to the regulations.
- **Shakil, 42 Flintlock Ct., Block 2502, Lot 11 – Rear yard setback**
Approved at 04/07/10 BOA meeting.
- **The Presbyterian Church of Liberty Corner, 45 Church St., Block 7501, Lot 4 – Use variance and amendment of site plan**
The Commission would like to see more information, specifically the drainage report and project/environmental impact report as requested by the engineering department's 4/8/10 memo before making comments.

Public Comment

Christine Stadtmueller asked the status of the community garden idea surveyed at Charter Day last year. It was explained that the township would support efforts made but would not be “the lead” on such a project – it would have to be taken on by another group. As of this date, no group has come forward to take this project on.

Member Comment

Jennifer Viola stated that the efforts by NJAWC to place an FM antenna on their Knollcroft water tank at the VA have been abandoned. She thanks PATCH for their coverage on the topic and stated that many people rallied to speak out about their concerns and opposition which were heard.

Shiva Raju stated that a feedback form should be available on the web site to gather information, questions and ideas from residents. Joe will speak to Chris K in IT regarding this.

Adjournment

Motion made by Bert Fonde, second by Paula Axt to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.
All in agreement, motioned passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Pisano, Acting Recording Secretary