



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



### **BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES-MARCH 11, 2019**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Ann Parsekian called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM in the Owen Conference Room of the Bernards Township Municipal Building, 1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975.

#### **FLAG SALUTE**

All those assembled saluted the flag.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Present:**

Alice Smyk (via phone), James LaMaire, Ann Parsekian, Joan Harris, Mahwish Mustafa, Michael Kelly, John Crane, and John Engdahl (arrived 7:13)

**Absent:** Debra DeWitt

##### **Also Present:**

Todd Edelstein, Nancy Kuhn

Ridge High School Students: Stefani Kuhn, Mia Porraro, Anthony Pilato, Selin Ciner, Nicolette Kavouras, Sophie Benevertine, Andrea Tirado, and Gerald Lorino  
Vanessa Freire, Meeting Secretary

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

Motion to amend by Michael Kelly second by James LaMaire.

Minutes of February 11, 2019 approved with amendments.

All in favor; motion carried.

#### **REPORTS**

John Engdahl reported on a Tree Removal Application for 340 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge Animal Hospital.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Development Applications**

- a) **Applications**

- i. **UTZ – ZB-19-001 – Vacant lot off Rickey Lane - New house construction; driveway variance**  
Motion by Joan Harris second by Michael Kelly to have John Engdahl and Ann Parsekian prepare comments based on discussion.

Roll Call: Alice Smyk – Yes, Ann Parsekian – Yes, Joan Harris – Yes, John Crane – Yes, James LaMaire – Yes, Michael Kelly – Yes, John Engdahl – Yes, Mahwish Mustafa – Yes



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All in favor; motion carried.

**See attachment— UTZ**

**ii. MOLNAR -ZB-19-003- 141 Spencer Road – side yard setback**

Comment:

No environmental concerns.

Motion by Joan Harris and second by James LaMaire to approve comment.

All in favor; motion carried.

**iii. PAREDDY&DUGGIRALA – ZB-18-005 – 393 Martinsville Road – Multiple Variances**

Motion by Joan Harris second by Michael Kelly to have John Engdahl and Ann Parsekian prepare comments based on discussion.

Roll Call: Alice Smyk – Yes, Ann Parsekian – Yes, Joan Harris – Yes, John Crane – Yes, James LaMaire – Yes, Michael Kelly – Yes, John Engdahl– Yes, Mahwish Mustafa – Yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**See attachment— PAREDDY&DUGGIRALA**

**iv. RICHTER - ZB-19-005-63 Juniper Way – lot coverage for patio**

Motion by John Crane second by John Engdahl to prepare comments based on discussion.

Roll Call: Alice Smyk – Yes, Ann Parsekian – Yes, Joan Harris – Yes, John Crane – Yes, James LaMaire – Yes, Michael Kelly – Yes, John Engdahl– Yes, Mahwish Mustafa – Yes

All in favor; motion carried.

**See attachment— RICHTER**

**• Charter Day Booth Theme**

EC members gave their suggestions:

- i. Energy Efficiency—LED lighting
- ii. Single Stream Recycling
- iii. Trex Recycling
- iv. Backyard composting demonstration
- v. Tree seedlings

**• ANJEC membership discussion – Annual dues \$350**

Mahwish Mustafa discussed her positive experiences taking the ANJEC class. EC members discussed hosting a class in Bernards Township and combining membership.

**• EC 2019 Goals**

EC members discussed having the Township Attorney give a presentation on ethics.



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### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Todd Edelstein asked if the first reviewed Development Application **UTZ – ZB-19-001** had existing sewer, water line, or house.

Todd Edelstein suggested that if EC members proceed with the Trex Recycling idea, EC members should think of where in Bernards Township to store plastics, i.e., Bernards Township Public Works.

### **COMMENTS BY MEMBERS**

John Crane commented that the Board of Adjustment tabled the Millington Quarry Inc. application until May and the Board of Adjustment approved the 130 South Maple Ave. application.

Ann Parsekian suggested EC members visit the Millington Quarry.

Ann Parsekian mentioned a member of the Shade Tree Commission has noticed invasive species on conservation easements.

Ann Parsekian mentioned the idea of EC hosting a table at the ARTsee Happening community event at Ross Farm on May 4, to have a drawing contest to design graphics for a Reusable Bag.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Michael Kelly second by John Crane to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM.

All in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Freire, Meeting Secretary



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

**TO:** Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

**FROM:** Ann Parsekian, Chairperson  
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

**DATE:** March 21, 2019

**RE:** **Utz**  
**ZB19-001**  
**33 Rickey Lane**  
**Block 11102 , L3**

The Environmental Commission reviewed the above-noted application at their March 11, 2019 meeting and forwards the following comments:

*The Environmental Commission notes the presence of freshwater wetlands and a surface water body on/near the property and the Applicant's documentation of pending applications at the NJDEP. As such, the Environmental Commission would like to confirm that the necessary NJDEP approvals are secured prior to full site plan approval.*

*Best management practices to protect the sensitive ecological areas (wetlands/surface water bodies) should be implemented during the site work (sediment and erosion controls) and long-term post-construction, such as organic lawn care (i.e., no pesticides or chemical fertilizers) and the protection of natural soil, vegetation, and grading in buffer zones and within the stream.*

*The Environmental Commission also notes the lack of a Tree Replacement Plan as part the application package.*

*For reference:*

<http://greatswamp.org/blog/its-too-wet-here-can-i-fill-in-wetlands-a-guide-to-what-you-can-and-cant-do-in-a-wetland-area/>

**Cc:** David Schley, Township Planner  
Cyndi Kiefer, Secretary; for distribution to BOA members  
[vbisogno@baskingridgelaw.com](mailto:vbisogno@baskingridgelaw.com); Attorney to applicant  
Andrea Freijomil, Secretary for distribution to EC members



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

**TO:** Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

**FROM:** Ann Parsekian, Chairperson  
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

**DATE:** March 21, 2019

**RE:** **Molnar**  
**ZB19-003**  
**141 Spencer Road**  
**Block 2701, L141**

The Environmental Commission reviewed the above-noted application at their March 11, 2019 meeting and has no comment.

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



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

**TO:** Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

**FROM:** Ann Parsekian, Chairperson  
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

**DATE:** March 21, 2019

**RE:** **Pareddy-Duggirala**  
**ZB18-005**  
**393 Martinsville Rd**  
**Block 11401, L5.02**

The Environmental Commission reviewed the above noted application at their March 11, 2019 meeting and forwards the following comments.

The Commission sees storm water management and ground water quality as major environmental issues in our community. The Commission would like to note that increases in impervious surface lead to increased storm water runoff, and reduced ground water recharge. As our community and the state continue to grow, it is becoming more critical than ever to employ greater storm water management Best Management Practices techniques to mitigate the damage caused by impervious surface.

The Commission would also like to note that disturbance to natural vegetation and its conversion to lawn and garden areas lead to increases in non-source point pollution and the loss of habitat. Non-source point pollution increases typically come from the application of fertilizers and pesticides.

Apparently, the existing condition on the subject property is at 17.58% impervious coverage when only 15% is permitted under the zoning ordinance. The Environmental Commission also notes that comments were submitted in April 2018 regarding impervious coverage exceedance at this property, which was then proposed at 16.15%. In regard to this application, the Environmental Commission recommends that no additional impervious areas be created on this site. If the Board approves a plan with additional lot coverage, the Commission would like to see a no net increase in volume and rate of flow for water runoff from the site. The Environmental Commission notes the submission of a Stormwater Management Report dated 8-15-2018.

**Cc:** David Schley, Township Planner  
Cyndi Kiefer, Secretary; for distribution to BOA members  
fzelley@baskingridgelaw.com, Attorney to applicant  
Andrea Freijomil, Secretary for distribution to EC members



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

**TO:** Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

**FROM:** Ann Parsekian, Chairperson  
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

**DATE:** March 21, 2019

**RE:** **Richter**  
**ZB19-005**  
**63 Juniper Way**  
**Block 1614 , L3**

The Environmental Commission reviewed the above noted application at their March 11, 2019 meeting and forwards the following comments.

The Commission sees storm water management and ground water quality as major environmental issues in our community. The Commission would like to note that increases in impervious surface lead to increased storm water runoff, and reduced ground water recharge. As our community and the state continue to grow, it is becoming more critical than ever to employ greater storm water management Best Management Practices techniques to mitigate the damage caused by impervious surface.

The Commission customarily recommends that no additional impervious area above the allowable limit be created on a site. The Commission notes that the small overage that is the subject of this application was evidently inadvertent. Should the Board approve a plan with additional lot coverage, the Commission recommends considering construction of a dry well for some or all of the roof leaders.

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