



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



### **BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – August 12, 2019**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Ann Parsekian called the meeting to order at 7:02 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:**

Ann Parsekian, John Crane, Debra DeWitt, Alice Smyk, Joan Harris, John Engdahl

##### **Absent:**

James LaMaire, Mahwish Mustafa

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

Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary

Todd Edelstein (arrived 7:27 pm)

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

Motion to approve May 13, 2019 minutes by Debra DeWitt second by Alice Smyk. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to approve July 8, 2019 minutes by Debra DeWitt second by Alice Smyk. All in favor, motion carried.

#### **REPORTS**

Green Team: Joan Harris reported that the Green Team is planning on going for their 2<sup>nd</sup> certification for Sustainable New Jersey. Joan Harris also attended a meeting about “Building Sustainable Supply Chains” and passed on the information to the Township Administrator, Pat Monaco.

Tree Committee: John Engdahl reported visiting a property at 86 Childs Road to survey a damaged tree earlier in the summer.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Reusable Bag Update: Ann Parsekian presented the final draft of the winner to the Environmental Commission. Discussed color of bags, number to be ordered, and location for distribution. Joan Harris mentioned requesting a resolution from the Bernards Township Committee.

Trex Plastic Bag Update: Debra DeWitt updated members on the Trex Plastic Bag project. She updated Joan Harris on the project. Also met with Basking Ridge Business Alliance to discuss plastic bag bin locations. Discussed working with Public Works to distribute bins amongst local businesses around town. Ann Parsekian suggested partnering with likeminded organizations to



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spread the word about the project.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. Applications**

- i. **GENESIS** – PB-19-002- B11201; L4 – 140 Allen Road

No environmental concerns.

Motion by Debra DeWitt, seconded by Joan Harris. All in favor; motion carried.

- ii. **MOUNTAINVIEW CORP**-PB-19-003-B11301; L 1&5-180-181 Mountainview Blvd.

John Crane recused himself at 7:41 pm for the discussion of this property. Comments to be prepared to discuss; disturbance of steep slopes, tree replacement, dead end water lines, detention pond regulation, fence height, detail in landscape. Site visit is needed. Suggestion to bring a tree expert to the Planning Board meeting.

Motion by Debra DeWitt, seconded by John Engdahl. All in favor; motion carried.

#### **b. EC Standard Comments Discussion**

John Crane returned to the meeting at 8:38 pm. Discussion surrounding the EC Standard Comments. John Crane suggested some should be tailored for specific situations. Edits were made by the group to send to the EC Secretary and will be distributed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Todd Edelstein made comments on concerns about electric cars and charging stations.

### **COMMENTS BY MEMBERS**

John Crane made a comment about Planning Board and Zoning memos being two separate documents going forward. Ann Parsekian reminded the group that Andrea Freijomil, EC Secretary sent out an email on plastic pollution.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Alice Smyk second by John Crane to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 PM. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary



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**TO:** Planning Board Chairperson and Members

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

**DATE:** August 19, 2019

**RE:**

### **Genesis PB19-002**

The Environmental Commission reviewed the above noted application at their August 12, 2019 meeting and has no environmental concerns at this time.

### **Mountainview Corp. PB19-003**

The Environmental Commission reviewed the above noted application at their August 12, 2019 meeting and has the following comments at this time.

1. The Environmental Commission sees storm water management and ground water quality as major environmental issues in our community and notes that the applicant is seeking variance relief from Township Land Development Ordinance related to steep slopes. The Commission recommends that the Applicant provide expert testimony that will provide assurances that proposed stormwater management will be sufficient and effective to address proposed slope disturbances and will prevent stormwater from the site causing / exacerbating stormwater issues on neighboring properties.

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 are encouraged.

2. The Environmental Commission notes that the Applicant is seeking a variance for construction of a dead-end water line for the proposed development. The Commission believes dead end water lines pose important reliability and water quality concerns that need to be addressed in testimony by the Applicant.

3. The Environmental Commission notes that the Applicant is seeking a variance to permit an 8-foot tall fence. The Commission requests that the Applicant provide testimony regarding the reason and purpose of the 8-foot fence, and the impact on neighboring properties with regard to wildlife. In addition, it is not clear from the site plans the extent of the fence and where it is proposed to be located.



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4. The Environmental Commission notes that the Applicant is seeking a variance regarding tree replacement requirements to permit planting 1,449 replacement trees whereas 2,590 replacement trees are required. The Commission recommends that the Planning Board consult an arborist to determine whether the proposed tree removals can be reduced and to propose maximum on-site tree replacements.

The Commission recommends that an ample number of tree replacements be located in areas bordering residential lots, and that larger sizes of like-species be used.

5. The Environmental Commission recommends that detention ponds be constructed with safety ledges.

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