



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – August 24, 2020 – 7pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ann Parsekian called the meeting to order at 7:03pm via Zoom Conference call in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975.

FLAG SALUTE

All those assembled saluted the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ann Parsekian, Debra DeWitt, Alice Smyk, James LaMaire, Nancy Cook, Jane Conklin (arrived at 7:08 pm)

Absent: John Crane, Joan Harris, Mahwish Mustafa

Also Present: Christopher Kyriacou – IT Manager, Kaitlin Cartoccio – Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Minutes were approved after the discussion of Old Business. Motion to approve the minutes made by Nancy Cook, seconded by Jane Conklin. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEUS CORRESPONDENCE

a. **177 Whitenack Road** – Septic System

No comments.

b. **TWA Application** – Dewey Meadow

No comments.

OLD BUSINESS

a. **MOYE-PB-17-001-11 Mountain Rd** – Minor Subdivision (Revised Plans)

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application with plans revised as of 7/20/2020, and offers the following comments. The Environmental Commission does not support any filling of wetlands, which is associated with degradation of surface water and groundwater quality. The Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act was passed by the New Jersey Legislature on July 1, 1987, to "preserve the purity and integrity of freshwater wetlands from random, unnecessary or undesirable alteration or disturbance." The act extended protection to inland waterways and freshwater wetlands that serve to protect water quality, provide flood protection, and provide habitat for wildlife. The Conservation Plan of the Master Plan seeks to minimize further degradation of these resources. The Environmental Commission urges the Planning Board to discuss further reduction of wetland filling and removal of the shed depicted within the wetlands.

The Environmental Commission notes that the proposed dwelling depicted on the new



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plans shows a typical patio, but no proposed locations for other potential amenities. The Environmental Commission recommends that the Planning Board discuss locations for future additional amenities, and specify these locations, should the application be approved.

Motion by Debra Dewitt, seconded by Alice Smyk.

All in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. TRINKS ZB 20-012-50 Long Road** – Bulk variance to construct additions to existing dwelling and deck.

No comments.

Motion by Debra Dewitt, seconded by Alice Smyk.

All in favor, motion carried.

- b. SANDS ZB 20-013-141 Washington Ave** – Coverage for covered deck.

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and offers the following comments. The Environmental Commission notes that the proposed lot coverage exceeds the required amount. Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area-wide flooding. Site drainage is the concern with this application, therefore site features to promote stormwater infiltration 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.nj.gov/dep/gi/>).

Motion by Alice Smyk seconded by Jane Conklin.

All in favor, motion carried.

- c. BECHT ZB-20-014-26 Normandy Ct** – Variances for addition

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and offers the following comments. The Environmental Commission notes that the proposed lot coverage exceeds the required amount. Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area-wide flooding. Site drainage is the concern with this application, therefore site features to promote stormwater infiltration 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.nj.gov/dep/gi/>).



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Motion by Alice Smyk, seconded by Jane Conklin .

All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Todd Edelstein wrote in for public comment asking when the meeting was changed to a virtual format, specifically what time and why was it changed. He also asked to clarify from the minutes from July 27th that he did not like so many members on the phone because it was hard to understand. He also commented that the plans were not in view during the board member's examination. Ann Parsekian stated that at the previous meeting that the Environmental Commission would pursue the Zoom format for the following meeting. There was discussion between the IT manager, Township Administration, Chair, Vice Chair and Recording Secretary to make the Zoom call possible on July 18th. The agenda with this information was posted several days ahead of time. Todd Edelstein stated that the meeting room was still reserved and that it needs to be posted 48 hours in advance. Debra DeWitt commented that when the agenda was posted the plans are on the agenda. Ann Parsekian commented that the public could go into the planning board office to view the plans as well.

There was also discussion that the Public Comment could be emailed in to the Recording Secretary prior to the spot on the agenda.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Nancy Cook commented she liked the Zoom meeting format. Alice Smyk mentioned it was easier to read the documents together and zoom in on specific parts of applications. Debra DeWitt mentioned this also allows members to hear each other and their comments better.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm by Debra DeWitt, seconded by Nancy Cook. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Planning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Ann Parsekian, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: August 24, 2020

RE: **Moye**
PB17-001
11 Mountain Avenue
Block 11401, L11

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The Environmental Commission notes that the proposed dwelling depicted on the new plans shows a typical patio, but no proposed locations for other potential amenities. The Environmental Commission recommends that the Planning Board discuss locations for future additional amenities, and specify these locations, should the application be approved.

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



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Ann Parsekian, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: August 24, 2020

RE: Applications review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their August 24, 2020 meeting and forwards the following comments.

Trinks ZB-20-012 50 Long Road

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and has no comments at this time.

Sands ZB-20-013 141 Washington Avenue

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and offers the following comments. The Environmental Commission notes that the proposed lot coverage exceeds the required amount. Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area-wide flooding. Site drainage is the concern with this application, therefore site features to promote stormwater infiltration 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.nj.gov/dep/gi/>).

Becht ZB-20-014. 26 Normandy Court

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and offers the following comments. The Environmental Commission notes that the proposed lot coverage exceeds the required amount. Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area-wide flooding. Site drainage is the concern with this application, therefore site features to promote stormwater infiltration 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.nj.gov/dep/gi/>).

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