



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



### **BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – February 10, 2020 – 7pm**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Ann Parsekian called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 , Jane Conklin, Nancy Cook, John Crane, Debra DeWitt, Joan Harris, James LaMaire, Alice Smyk

**Absent:** Mahwish Mustafa

**Also Present:** Todd Edelstein – Resident, Brady McNamara – RHS Student

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

Motion to approve EC meeting minutes for Reorganization – January 13, 2020 by Joan Harris, second by Alice Smyk. All in favor, motion carried. Motion to approve EC meeting minutes for Regular Session – January 13, 2020 by Nancy Cook, second by John Crane. All in favor, motion carried.

#### **REPORTS & MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

Trex Challenge Update: See attached memo by Debra Dewitt. Ann Parsekian commented that she contacted Somerset County and they may be working on a county-wide project for plastic film in the future. There was also discussion to contact surrounding town's Environmental Commissions for support. Debra DeWitt made a motion to draft a letter to the Somerset County Environmental Commissions, second by Joan Harris. All in favor, motion carried.

Tree Protection: An application came in, but Alice Smyk was unable to go.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **MARTIN & BERMAN – PB-19-006 - additional docs-**Minor Subdivision and C Variance

Tabled until the next meeting.

Motion by John Crane, second by Nancy Cook. All in favor, motion carried.

- b. **HARDY – ZB-19-023- additional docs-**(C) Pool not located behind building line of adjacent dwelling

Application was already approved.



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- c. **BUONO – ZB-19-016 – additional docs**-Front and side yard setbacks to add 2<sup>nd</sup> story addition to 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Application was already approved.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Year End Report** – Ann Parsekian discussed the 2019 Year End Report. John Crane commented that it was a busy and productive year. Motion by James LaMaire and second by John Crane to approve the 2019 Year End Report. All in favor, motion carried.

b. **Applications**

- i. **GOLDSTEIN – ZB-19-025 – B5801, L17 - 9 Lyons Place**- C-Front/rear yard setback for addition

No comments.

Motion by John Crane second by Alice Smyk. All in favor, motion carried.

- ii. **FAIRMOUNT – PB-19-007-B2301, L12&18-95 Mt. Airy Road**- Pre/final site plan to replace existing maintenance building with a new larger one (same location)

John Crane recused himself at 7:43 pm. Comments to be prepared about tree replacement.

Motion by Alice Smyk, second by Nancy Cook. All in favor, motion carried.

- iii. **NY SMSA LLP dba VERIZON WIRELESS-B803, L2,3,5,6 &23-300 N Maple Ave**-Pre/final site plan, d-1 use variance, side yard setback to install 6 wireless communication test nodes (5G)

John Crane returned at 7:52 pm. There was discussion about potential environmental health implications to immediately surround areas and especially to those with pre-existing health conditions (i.e. those with pacemakers). Comments to be prepared about having soil erosion measures in place.

Motion by John Crane, second by Debra DeWitt. All in favor, motion carried.

- c. **Charter Day Plans** – Discussion about Charter Day coming up in May. Ideas suggested included another reusable bag competition and handing out plants. Possible partnership with other township organizations to hand out reusable water bottles.



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### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Todd Edelstein made comments about Verizon and suggested that the EC have a display at Charter Day about how to do the Trex Challenge and an example. He also suggested a watercooler with water bottles at Charter Day.

### **COMMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Ann Parsekian brought up looking into community partners on composting. She also brought up the bobcat that was found in Bernards Township and the new charging stations for electric cars at Town Hall and Dewy Meadow. John Crane mentioned the website needed to be updated. Alice Smyk attended a decluttering seminar at the Bernards Township Library and learned about a website called Earth 911 that could be helpful for people. Debra DeWitt suggested the EC have a Recycling FAQ available for residents.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. Motion by Joan Harris, second by John Crane. 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:** February 10, 2020

**RE: Fairmount Cemetery – PB-19-007**

The Environmental Commission has reviewed the above noted application at their February 10, 2020 meeting and offers the following comment:

The Environmental Commission notes that a tree replacement plan has been submitted with the application and that 12 trees are to be planted within the southeasterly buffer area. Long-term tree survivability should be the goal of any tree replacement plan.

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



## *Bernards Township Environmental Commission*

**TO:** Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

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

**DATE:** February 11, 2020

**RE:** Applications review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their February 10, 2020 meeting and forwards the following comments.

### **Goldstein – ZB-19-025**

The Environmental Commission has reviewed the above-noted application at their February 10, 2020 meeting and has no environmental concerns at this time.

### **NY SMSA LLP dba Verizon Wireless – ZB-20-001**

The Environmental Commission has reviewed the above noted application at their February 10, 2020 meeting and forwards the following comments.

1. The Environmental Commission notes the presence of freshwater wetlands and a surface water body on or adjacent to the subject property. Best management practices to protect these sensitive ecological areas should be implemented during the site work (sediment and erosion controls) and post-construction (organic lawn care, protect and preserve natural soil, vegetation, and grading in buffer zones).
2. The Environmental Commission is aware of public concern about the potential environmental and health impacts posed by the higher energy radiation of the more powerful 5G technology. The EC urges board members to have the applicant thoroughly discuss the subject and provide peer-reviewed scientific studies and best management practices to sufficiently allay the public's concerns about potential hazards to both humans and wildlife.

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