



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – January 25, 2021 – 7pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ann Parsekian called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm 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: Joan Bannan, Debra DeWitt, Nancy Cook, Jane Conklin, James LaMaire, Ann Parsekian, Jason Roberts, Alice Smyk, Sarah Wolfson

Absent: Emily Johnston Schlenker

Also Present: Kaitlin Cartoccio - Recording Secretary, Todd Edelstein – Resident, John Crane – Resident

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the December 28, 2020 minutes made by Debra DeWitt, second by Nancy Cook. Sarah Wolfson and Jason Roberts abstained. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

a. **3066 & 3074 Valley Road – LOI**

No comments.

b. **Year End Report for 2020**

Sarah Wolfson commented that “wildlife” was included in “flora and fauna”. Wildlife will be taken out and flora and fauna would be kept in the report. Alice Smyk made motion to approve the report, Jane Conklin seconded. All those in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

a. **Rossi-ZB-21-003-14 Culberson Road – “C” Coverage Variance for construction of an in-ground pool. Patio & cabana.**

Debra Dewitt recused herself at 7:18 pm. The Environmental Commission notes 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/>). The Commission suggests that the applicant may want to consider reducing the amount of impervious surface coverage. In regards to this application, pool water discharge may result from backwashing of filters, or from the draining of swimming pools at the end of season, or during maintenance. This water



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



often contains pool treatment chemicals that can cause damage to the receiving environment in the form of non-point source pollution. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water.

Motion by James LaMaire, seconded by Nancy Cook.

All in favor, motion carried.

b. Maschhoff-ZB-21-004-31 Clairvaux Ct – “C” Variances for in ground pool coverage – Not behind rear building line of adjacent dwelling

Debra DeWitt returned at 7:40 pm. The Environmental Commission notes 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/>). In regards to this application, pool water discharge may result from backwashing of filters, or from the draining of swimming pools at the end of season, or during maintenance. This water often contains pool treatment chemicals that can cause damage to the receiving environment in the form of non-point source pollution. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water. The Commission also wants to note that if the pool is placed in accordance with the ordinance, trees would have to be removed. The proposed plan does not appear to require tree removal.

Motion by Jane Conklin, seconded by Debra DeWitt.

All in favor, motion carried.

c. Fellowship Village-PB-20-005-8000 Fellowship Rd – Preliminary & final major site plan.

Alice Smyk recused herself at 7:57 pm. Discussion tabled to February meeting.

Motion by Debra DeWitt, seconded by Nancy Cook.

All in favor, motion carried.

Alice Smyk returned at 7:58 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Todd Edelstein mentioned a conversation with Dave Schley, met with Pat Monaco about the packet with the social security number. Suggested that new people should attend Zoning Board or Planning Board meeting. John Crane was glad to see Ann and Debra reappointed. Told new



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



members to reach out if they should need anything.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Ann Parsekian asked the new members what kind of project they were interested in. Sarah Wolfson replied being interested in eliminating invasive species. Jason Roberts said he is excited for the opportunity to be a part of the Environmental Commission. Ann Parsekian then brought up a membership for the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commission. The Bernards EC has not been a member for several years. 7 members get free training from ANJEC, and ANJEC has displays and activities to loan members. In addition, there are grants and other opportunities for ECs that are members. The Commission voted unanimously to renew their membership. The Commission also received mail from Brian Pinke, an NJ Watershed Ambassador. He will be invited to an upcoming meeting. Last year the EC had 2 committees – Charter Day and Social Media. Debra DeWitt and Nancy Cook will continue on the social media committee. Ideas included a composting video and a community project. There was a discussion on either purchasing or acquiring donated monarch butterfly milkweed seeds to distribute to residents.

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ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm. Motion by James LaMaire, second by Joan Bannan. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Ann Parsekian, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: January 26, 2021

RE: Applications review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their January 26, 2021 meeting and forwards the following comments.

Zoning Board

Rossi ZB21-003 14 Culberson Road

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and offers the following comments:

1. The Environmental Commission notes the proposed lot coverage of 22.54% substantially exceeds the permitted maximum of 18%. Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area-wide flooding. Site drainage is a concern with this application, therefore site features to promote stormwater infiltration are important. The NJ DEP Green Infrastructure website is a good reference for “green” stormwater management practices for homeowners. (<http://www.nj.gov/dep/gi/>).
2. The Commission suggests that the Zoning Board discuss with the Applicant whether they may want to consider reducing the amount of impervious surface coverage.
3. The site plan depicts low walls around portions of the patio and fire pit areas, and also appears to show existing shrubbery/trees between the patio and fire pit areas and the proposed pool area. There does not seem to be a clearly defined path/walk to access the pool area. The Environmental Commission suggests that the Zoning Board clarify proposed access with the Applicant.
4. With regard to this application, pool water discharge may result from backwashing of filters, or from the draining of swimming pools at the end of season or during maintenance. This water often contains pool treatment chemicals that can cause damage to the receiving environment. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water.



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

<https://www.bernards.org/government/documents/department-documents/environmental/1645-best-management-practices-pool-water-discharge/file>

Maschoff ZB21-004 31 Clairvaux Court

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and offers the following comments:

1. The Environmental Commission notes that at 18.1% the proposed lot coverage substantially exceeds the permitted maximum of 15%. Increased impervious coverage increases the volume (quantity) of stormwater runoff, which can contribute to local and potentially area-wide flooding. Site drainage is a concern with this application, therefore adequate site features to promote stormwater infiltration are important. The NJ DEP Green Infrastructure website is a good reference for “green” stormwater management practices for homeowners.

[\(http://www.nj.gov/dep/gi/\)](http://www.nj.gov/dep/gi/).

2. The Commission suggests that the Zoning Board discuss with the Applicant whether they may want to consider reducing the amount of impervious surface coverage.

3. With regard to this application, pool water discharge may result from backwashing of filters, or from the draining of swimming pools at the end of season or during maintenance. This water often contains pool treatment chemicals that can cause damage to the receiving environment. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants township residents to use the best management practices available when discharging pool water.

<https://www.bernards.org/government/documents/department-documents/environmental/1645-best-management-practices-pool-water-discharge/file>

4. The Environmental Commission notes that placement of the pool within the area permitted by ordinance, as shown on the submitted Proposed Landscape Development plan to be south of the proposed location, would apparently require the removal of a number of existing trees. It would be preferable to minimize tree removal.

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