



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – February 22, 2021 – 7pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ann Parsekian called the meeting to order at 7:01 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: Debra DeWitt, Nancy Cook, Jane Conklin, James LaMaire, Ann Parsekian, Jason Roberts, Alice Smyk, Sarah Wolfson

Absent: Joan Bannan, John Crane

Also Present: Kaitlin Cartoccio – Recording Secretary, Todd Edelstein – Resident, Susan Kessel – Resident (7:14 pm)

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve EC regular and reorganization meeting minutes January 25, 2021 by Debra DeWitt, second by Alice Smyk. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

a. Correspondence

i. 16 Rocky Ln – NJDEP – FWW General Permit #8

No comment.

ii. PSE&G – FWW Permit Extension

No comment.

b. Public Outreach Project – Update

Nancy Cook talked about the most recent public outreach posts including “just say no” to plastic utensils and how to spot spotted lanternfly egg nests and remove them. Considering “what not to recycle”, pool applications – “what we look for”. Reminder for residents and post about best practices about pools that is already on the website. Ann Parsekian mentioned the watershed representative attending a meeting later in the spring.

OLD BUSINESS



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a. Silver Living – ZB20-015 – 14 North Maple Ave – Revised Materials

The property was previously reviewed in September and comments were submitted. New materials have shown a re-design in the project including reducing the lot coverage and relocated a retaining wall. Proposal is still to demolish the 19th century house and construct a new one. Debra DeWitt noted that there still wasn't a tree plan and Sarah Wolfson asked if there's a way to encourage the planting of native trees. The Environmental Commission will submit comments for the revised materials including the comments submitted September 29th with following exceptions: Item 3 – lot coverage still exceeds Township Ordinance and Item 6 – architectural drawings have not noted building materials.

Motion by Nancy Cook , seconded by Alice Smyk.

All in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Applications

i. Verizon Corporate Services Group – ZB21-001 – 300 North Maple Ave – Major site plan approval for construction of additional parking

Ann Parsekian recused herself at 7:27 pm. Jason Roberts left at 7:28 pm. The Environmental Commission notes the presence of freshwater wetlands and a surface water body on 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 and within the stream). The Environmental also 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 should be considered. It is also recommended that the applicant use Environmentally friendly material when possible, including permeable asphalt for the parking lot. Tree replacement should be native species and the recommended tree and shrub list should be consulted.

Motion by James LaMaire, seconded by Jane Conklin.

All in favor, motion carried.

ii. Roti-ZB21-002 10 Pacer Ct – 6' fence in front yard; Shed in front yard.

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

Motion by Debra DeWitt, seconded by Nancy Cook.

All in favor, motion carried.



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- iii. **Burcat-ZB21-005 – 153 Spencer Rd** – Variance for front yard setback (addition) and a pool not located behind rear building line of adjacent dwellings.

Ann Parsekian returned at 8:04 pm. Debra DeWitt recused herself at 8:05 pm. 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.

Motion by James LaMaire, seconded by Sarah Wolfson.

All in favor, motion carried.

- iv. **Rosenblatt-ZB21-006 – 30 Cameron Ct** – Pool not located behind the rear building line of adjacent dwellings.

Debra DeWitt returned at 8:08 pm. The Commission would ask the Board to remind the applicants that they are virtually at capacity on lot coverage and that any future additions such as patios, sheds, pools, or any other impervious surface coverage items would put them over the limit. The Commission suggests they discuss this with the applicant and perhaps 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 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 Debra DeWitt, seconded by Nancy Cook

All in favor, motion carried.

- v. **Fellowship Senior Living-PB20-005** – 8000 Fellowship Rd – Preliminary & final major site plan.

Alice Smyk recused herself at 8:19 pm. Discussion tabled until March.

Motion by Nancy Cook, seconded by Jane Conklin.

All in favor, motion carried.



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PUBLIC COMMENT

Alice Smyk returned at 8:30 pm. Todd Edelstein commented on the outreach project and roadblocks to recycling. Susan Kessel commented she attended to see what the Environmental Commission discusses.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Debra DeWitt brought up the Ridge High School Green Team selling reusable totes, waterbottles, plants and butterfly attraction items as a fundraiser. They are using the money to buy plastic bag recycling bins around town. Ann Parsekian mentioned adding native species to Bernards Township to the master comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm. Motion by Nancy Cook, second by Debra DeWitt. 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: February 24, 2021

RE: Applications review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their February 22, 2021 meeting and forwards the following comments.

Zoning Board

Verizon Corporate Services Group-ZB21-001 - 300 North Maple Ave

The Environmental Commission notes the presence of freshwater wetlands and a surface water body on the subject property. As a reminder, 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 and within the stream).

The Environmental Commission would also like to remind the applicants 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. Likewise, for the implementation of best management practices to preserve and protect trees during the site work.

Regarding this application, the Environmental Commission feels that long-term tree survivability should be the goal of any tree replacement plan and that native hardwood species should be selected whenever practicable. [Recommended Tree and Shrub List](#)

The Environmental Commission also recommends that the applicant explore environmentally friendly materials for all aspects of the project, particularly the viability of permeable asphalt for the parking lot.

Silver Living ZB-20-015 – 14 North Maple Ave

The Environmental Commission has reviewed new materials submitted for this application. The EC's comments dated September 29, 2020 remain valid with the following modifications:

1. Under Item #3, the comment should reflect the revised, reduced proposed impervious coverage, which is still substantially greater than the existing as well as the maximum amount permitted in the zone by Township Ordinance.
2. Under Item #6, the EC reviewed the architectural drawings and notes that no building materials have been specified. The EC recommends that the applicant consult with The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills for input on exterior building materials that would be appropriate for site's location in the historic neighborhood and streetscape.

277 South Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 (908) 204-3019



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Roti ZB21-002 – 10 Pacer Court

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

Burcat ZB21-005 – 153 Spencer Road

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and has the following comment:

1. 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 Bernards Township residents to use best management practices when discharging pool water. [BMPs: Pool Water Discharge](#)

Rosenblatt ZB21-006 – 30 Cameron Court

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

1. The Environmental Commission asks the Board to remind the applicants that they will virtually at capacity on lot coverage and that any future additions, such as sheds or any other impervious surface coverage item would put them over the limit for the zone as permitted by Township ordinance. The Commission suggests they discuss this with the applicant and perhaps the applicant may want to consider reducing the amount of impervious surface coverage.

2. 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 in the form of non-point source pollution. Therefore, the Environmental Commission wants Bernards Township residents to use best management practices when discharging pool water. [BMPs: Pool Water Discharge](#)

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