



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



### **BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – April 26, 2021 – 7pm**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Ann Parsekian called the meeting to order at 7:04 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, John Crane, Debra DeWitt, Nancy Cook, Jane Conklin, Ann Parsekian, Alice Smyk, Sarah Wolfson

**Absent:** James LaMaire, Jason Roberts

**Also Present:** Kaitlin Cartoccio – Recording Secretary, Todd Edelstein – Resident

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

Motion to approve the March 22, 2021 minutes made by Nancy Cook seconded by Debra DeWitt with the addition of the “What Not to Recycle” article posted on Facebook. All others in favor, motion carried.

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

- a. **Correspondence – Moye**  
No comments

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Status on Current Projects**
  - i. **Public Outreach**  
Posts during the month of April – focus has been on the Great Swamp Plant Sale and the Spotted Lantern Fly. There were also posts not with the Environmental Commission, but Shade Tree posted sapling giveaway.
  - ii. **GSWA Native Plant Sale**  
Volunteers are gathering to organize the orders. They will be picked up and brought to DPW for distribution.
  - iii. **Reusable Bag Design Challenge**  
Launched on Earth Day. Local schools like Mount Prospect and Saint James have expressed interest.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. **RCP Realty Associates LLC.-ZB-21-007-31** Country Lane - Bulk variances and lot not fronting on a public street. Demolish existing house and build new single-family dwelling.



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The Environmental Commission notes that there is currently no tree removal or replacement plan. Link to organic lawn care suggestions. The Environmental Commission notes that the plan proposes additional impervious coverage which brings the coverage is close to the threshold, so the Commission recommends discussing stormwater recharge and test pits as part of the application. The Environmental Commission also notes that there is a proposed well and if there is an existing well it must be abandoned. Dust control measures should be taken during demolition and caution of existing asbestos and lead.

Motion by Debra DeWitt, seconded by Alice Smyk.

All in favor, motion carried.

- ii. Sefchovich - ZB-21-010** - 91 Queen Anne Drive - Pool (SPA) not located behind the rear building line of adjacent dwellings

Nancy Cook recused herself at 7:38 pm. Reviewed application alongside David Schley's April 23, 2021 comments and Environmental Commission agrees with environmental related comments: 5,6,7,8 and 10.

Motion by John Crane , seconded by Debra DeWitt .

All in favor, motion carried.

- iii. Lesnick - ZB-21-011** - 6 Cedar Street - Pool not located behind rear building line of adjacent dwellings.

Nancy Cook returned at 7:49 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. Reviewed application alongside David Schley's April 23, 2021 comments and Environmental Commission agrees with environmental related comments:4,5,7,8, and 9.

Motion by Alice Smyk, seconded by Nancy Cook.

All in favor, motion carried.

- vi. Naulty - ZB-20-012** - 1 Pin Oak Court - Pool not located behind the rear building line of adjacent dwelling

The Commission would ask the Board to remind the applicants that they are virtually at



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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. Reviewed application alongside David Schley's April 23, 2021 comments and Environmental Commission agrees with environmental related comments: 6 7 8 10 11

Motion by Sarah Wolfson, seconded by Debra DeWitt.

All in favor, motion carried.

**vii. Calvert - ZB-21-020 - 19 Fieldstone Drive - 6' high solid fence in front yard (through lot)**

The Environmental Commission recommends that the applicant should comment if they plan on removing and replacing trees due to the new fence location.

Motion by Nancy Cook, seconded by Alice Smyk.

All in favor, motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Todd Edelstein commented on 6 Cedar Street and asked if it had gone in front of the Board before. John Crane said it was.

### **COMMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Nancy Cook spoke to Colgate Recycling Plant about a tour in East Brunswick. The EC will be visiting June 7<sup>th</sup> as a group. Sarah Wolfson had a conversation with Mike Van Clef from Ecological Solutions. His recommendations for Spotted Lantern Fly control included action against the host tree. Ann spoke about NJEC workshops and Mandatory Harassment Training. There was discussion about rain gardens as they came up during the March meeting. Sarah Ireland, a student pursuing her Silver Award called "Caps for a Cause" – collecting plastic caps to keep them out of landfills. Seeking assistance from the EC, has a collection bin at the YMCA. NJEC social media Canva posts could be used by the Environmental Commission. There was also discussion about resuming in-person meetings.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm by Joan Bannan and seconded by Alice Smyk. 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:** April 28, 2021

**RE:** Applications review

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

### **Board of Adjustment**

#### **RCP Realty Associates LLC – ZB21-007-31 Country Lane**

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

The EC notes there is no tree survey or removal/replacement information. The EC notes that a 30" tree behind the garage and 12" & 24" trees in front of the house are proposed for removal. The Applicant should discuss the need for the removal of these trees, since they do not appear to be in the way of proposed features.

The EC notes that the plan proposes 992 sf of additional impervious coverage, just 8 sf shy of the 1,000 sf threshold for stormwater recharge requirements. Additional impervious coverage - such as for air conditioning equipment, a generator, a path from the bottom of the deck stairs, or a path instead of stepping stones from the secondary front entrance – would result in over 1,000 sf of impervious coverage and conceivably could be added in connection with occupancy. Therefore, the EC recommends discussion of stormwater recharge and test pits as part of the application.

The EC notes the plan proposes a new well. The EC recommends discussion of proper closure of any existing well.

The Commission recommends dust control measures be required during demolition activity, and that proper precautions be taken regarding investigation for and disposal of in-ground tanks, and protocols be observed for existing asbestos and lead paint.



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### **Sefchovich – ZB21-010-91 Queen Anne Drive**

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and David Schley's comments dated April 23, 2021, and agrees with his environmental-related comments #s 5-8 and 10.

### **Lesnik – ZB21-011- 6 Cedar Street**

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and David Schley's comments dated April 23, 2021, and agrees with his environmental-related comments #s 4,5, and 7-9.

In addition, the Environmental Commission asks the Board to remind the applicant that they are virtually at capacity on lot coverage and that any future additions such as patios, sheds or any other impervious coverage items could put them over the limit. The EC suggests they discuss this with the applicant and perhaps the applicant may want to consider reducing the amount of proposed impervious coverage.

### **Naulty – ZB20-012- 1 Pin Oak Court**

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and David Schley's comments dated April 23, 2021, and agrees with his environmental-related comments #s 6-8 and 10-11.

In addition, the Environmental Commission asks the Board to remind the applicant that they are virtually at capacity on lot coverage and that any future additions such as patios, sheds or any other impervious coverage items could put them over the limit. The EC suggests they discuss this with the applicant and perhaps the applicant may want to consider reducing the amount of proposed impervious coverage.

### **Calvert – ZB21-020 -19 Fieldstone Drive**

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and recommends that the Board discuss with the Applicant whether the new location of the fence will have any impact on existing trees.

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