



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – January 24, 2022 – 7pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Debra DeWitt called the meeting to order at 7:23 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, Alice Smyk, Jennifer Asay, Nancy Cook (left at 8:01 pm), John Crane, Todd Edelstein, Corey Fischer, James LaMaire, John Valeri Jr., Sarah Wolfson (left at 8:22 pm)

Absent: None

Also Present: Kaitlin Cartoccio, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the November 22, 2021, minutes made by Debra DeWitt, seconded by Alice Smyk. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **EcolSciences Inc.,** - Application for an Extension of Letter of Interpretation
No comments.
- b. **Roux** – Freshwater Wetlands Letter
No comments.
- c. **Jan 25 GSWA Plant Sale – Jersey Friendly Yard**
Native Pollinator Group – represents several towns. Hosted a plant sale last year.
Committed to another sale. First of three sales.

DISCUSSION

a. Subcommittees

Chairperson Debra DeWitt opened the conversation regarding subcommittees for the Commission. Additionally, the Commission's ANJEC membership is up for renewal. Membership is \$375 a year up to 7 members. Good for education and becoming a member of the EC. Nancy Cook suggested that maybe 1 or 2 members could volunteer to comb through emails and send out the most pertinent programming to other members of the Commission. The following subcommittees were also discussed and created. Leads on the subcommittees are as follows:

- i. **Applications** - John Crane, James LaMaire and Corey Fischer
- ii. **ANJEC** - Nancy Cook, Alice Smyk and Todd Edelstein
- iii. **Native Pollinator Group/Plant Sale** - Sarah Wolfson and Debra DeWitt



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- iv. **Charter Day** - Maybe combine with Agricultural Committee Charter Day group.
- v. **Community Outreach – Tips of the Week** - TBD
- vi. **Americorps Watershed Project** - TBD

OLD BUSINESS

a. Status on Current Projects:

ii. Public Outreach

Tips of the Week. Information about disposing of batteries. Update for the Native Plant Sale.

iii. Liaison – Regional Native Pollinator Working Group

No update. Nancy Cook left at 8:01 pm

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Birkhold/Kostinas – ZB 21-033 – 33 Springhouse Lane** – Addition over existing – Variance for maximum floor area allowed.

No environmental concerns.

Motion by John Crane, seconded by John Valeri Jr. All in favor, motion carried.

- b. Heymann – ZB 21-034 – 24 Woodstone Road** – Maximum lot coverage – Patio & covered breezeway.

The Environmental Commission notes the existing lot coverage exceeds the maximum amount. 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 the recharge of stormwater from the roof leaders should be considered. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Infrastructure website is a good reference for “green” stormwater management practices for homeowners.

Motion by John Crane, seconded by Corey Fischer. All in favor, motion carried.

- c. Fetchko – ZB 21-035 – 103 Washington Ave.** – Front yard setback relief for addition

No environmental concerns.

Motion by John Valeri Jr, seconded by John Crane. All in favor, motion carried.

- d. B3 Church Street LLC – ZB 21-036 – 15 Church Street.** – Variance to allow (2) apartments when only (1) is allowed.

No environmental concerns.

Motion by James LaMaire, seconded by John Valeri Jr. All in favor, motion carried.



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- e. **Faizan/Kirkwood – PB 21-005- 62/48 Wisteria Way** – Amended Pre/Final Subdivision Condition, which resulted in the creation of an emergency access easement.

Debra DeWitt recused herself at 8:21pm. Sarah Wolfson was away at 8:22 pm. No environmental concerns.

Motion by John Valeri Jr, seconded by Corey Fischer

All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Debra DeWitt returned 8:25 pm. John Crane offered assistance if any new members need help and asked for contact list. Todd Edelstein commented that the Environmental Commission member handbook was very helpful. Master Comments – add recharge comment. Update lot coverage for #3 and #4. Jennifer Asay thanked everyone on the commission for all their work so far and asked for updates for Township Committee. There was discussion regarding Zoom vs in meeting in person. February meeting will stay virtual.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. Motion by Todd Edelstein, seconded by Debra DeWitt
All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Planning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Alice Smyk – Vice Chair
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: January 26, 2022

The Environmental Commission reviewed this application at their January 24, 2022 meeting and forwards the following comments:

Faizan / Kirkwood – PB 21-005 – 62/48 Wisteria Way

The Environmental Commission has no comments on this application.

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: Deb Dewitt, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: January 26, 2022

RE: Applications review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their January 24, 2022 meeting and forwards the following comments.

Birkhold/Kostinas - ZB21-033, 33 Springhouse Lane

The Environmental Commission has no comments on this application.

Heymann - ZB21-034, 24 Woodstone Road

The Environmental Commission notes the existing lot coverage exceeds the maximum amount. 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 the recharge of stormwater from the roof leaders 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.nju.gov/dep/gi/>)

Fetchko - ZB21-035, 103 Washington Avenue

The Environmental Commission has no comments on this application.

B3 Church Street LLC - ZB21-036, 15 Church Street

The Environmental Commission has no comments on this application.

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