

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES-January 14, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Parsekian called the regular meeting to order at 7:16 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by La Maire second by Kelly to approve the minutes of August 13, 2018.
All in favor; motion carried.

REPORTS

Kelly reported on an approved tree removal permit for 301 Mt Airy Road.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Year End Report**

Engdahl will write report and circulated to members for review and approval.

- **Development Applications**

- A. Grob—ZB-18-027-Impervious coverage

Engdahl recused himself from review of application.

Motion by Crane second by Kelly to approve comment.

All in favor; motion carried.

Comment:

No environmental concerns in addition to standard pool discharge recommendation.

- B. Hoffman – ZB-18-029-Front yard setback-addition

Motion by Harris second by La Maire to approve comment.

Comment:

No environmental Concerns.

- C. Duffy – ZB-18-028-Front yard setback

Crane recused himself from review of application.

EC notes original plans were inaccurate but have been revised.

Motion by Kelly second by La Maire to approve comment.

Comment:

No environmental Concerns.

- D. Bernards Plaza – PB-18-005 – Multi-family residential development – Affordable Housing

Crane recused himself from review of application.

Motion by Harris second by Engdahl to approve comment.

Comment:

The Environmental Commission reviewed this application at their January 14, 2019, meeting and submits the following comments:

1. It is the Environmental Commission's (EC) understanding that the stormwater basin located near King George Road will handle the stormwater runoff from the proposed development. As such, the basin should be upgraded to handle any increase in stormwater volume and meet the current NJDEP requirements (September 2014 NJDEP Stormwater BMP Manual). In light of the land use change to residential, the EC would like to note that the new requirements contain safety features (ledges).
2. The EC wishes to point out that the southwestern portion of the existing buildings and impervious coverage lie within a wetland buffer zone and a flood hazard area. As the result, the portion of the property now designated as a new "lawn area with wood chip walking trail" has poor drainage characteristics, low recharge value, and is flood prone (Master Plan, Fig. VIII-3; NRI, Fig. 9 & 21). The Applicant should give consideration to the existing conditions; the proposed/potential increase use of the area; and implement and/or make arrangements for necessary care/maintenance (e.g., landscaping, vegetation, and seed mixture selection, etc.) to ensure this area is not adversely affected (e.g., modifying drainage/overland flow, increasing standing water/damming by the walking path, etc.).
3. The EC notes that the Applicant should secure all necessary NJDEP Land Use Permits (Freshwater Wetland, Flood Hazard Area) that are applicable to the property and the proposed development.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Connoll introduced himself and commented that he was attending the meeting to learn more about municipal government.

Todd Edletien commented on the proposed new bridge over Valley Road, new county recycling program and the possibility of using Valley Road Baseball field parking lots as a commuter lot during off season.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Crane thanked John Engdahl for returning to the EC for 2019

Members introduced themselves to Joan Harris and gave their backgrounds.

Parsekian commented on ANJAC Training

Crane commented on the new storm water regulation and the high level of maintenance required.

Parsekian would reach out to the planning Board secretary and ask to be copied on their comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Harris second by Kelly to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

All in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Meth, Secretary