



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – June 22, 2020 – 7pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ann Parsekian called the meeting to order at 7:03 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: John Crane, James LaMaire, Mahwish Mustafa, Ann Parsekian, Jane Conklin, Nancy Cook, Debra DeWitt, Joan Harris, Alice Smyk

Absent:

Also Present: Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary
Christopher Kyriacou, IT Manager, Bernards Township

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve EC regular meeting minutes – March 9, 2020 by John Crane, seconded by Mahwish Mustafa. Nancy Cook and Debra DeWitt abstained. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS & MISCELLANEUS CORRESPONDENCE

a. Application for LOI-22 Long Road

No comments

b. Application for an authorization under freshwater wetlands general permit 24-213 Liberty Corner Road

No comments

c. Application for Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit Extension-PSE&G

No comments

OLD BUSINESS

a. MARTIN & BERMAN-PB19-006-Revised plans.

Comments to be prepared to recommend the potential for less disturbance at the northeast corner, the west end of the property and north end of the proposed lot being a critical habitat for the wood thrush, and request that tree replacements be native species to support the critical habitat.



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



Motion by John Crane, seconded by Alice Smyk.

All in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **HEATH-ZB-20-007-21 Old Stagecoach Rd** - Elimination of condition 7 as listed in resolution for ZB-13-013.

The Environmental Commission previously commented in 2013 Resolution on this property. Comments to be prepared based on the new plans about water quality Best Management Practices for storm water management and infiltration. Since applicant is proposing drainage stones, the Environmental Commission will support if they are clean stones.

Motion by John Crane, seconded by Jane Conklin.

All in favor, motion carried.

- b. **EMERALD VALLEY HOA-PB20-001** - Amended prelim/final major subdivision approval-eliminate condition of approval.

Comments to be prepared suggesting that the Home Owners Association should remove the stone, top soil and seed or to maintain the stone based on erosion.

Motion by Debra DeWitt, seconded by Alice Smyk

All in favor, motion carried.

- c. **KANGAS-ZB20-009-134 S Alward Ave.** - Pool not located behind rear building line of existing structures on adjoining lots

Comments to be prepared based on pool water discharge. It's preferential to not move pool back on the property due to the potential for more disturbance and tree removal.

Motion by Debra Dewitt, seconded by Nancy Conklin

All in favor, motion carried.

- d. **REYNOLDS-ZB20-010-36 Kensington Rd** - Rear yard setback for covered deck.

No comments.

Motion by John Crane, seconded by Alice Smyk.

All in favor, motion carried.



Bernards Township Environmental Commission



PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

John Crane noted that the meeting went well. He hopes for the Zoom meetings to continue for the time being. Several other members agreed. Ann Parsekian thanked Christopher Kyriacou for providing the digital copies of plans for members as it made it easier for all members to view plans. Christopher Kyriacou noted that they would be able to provide the files for members in the future. Debra DeWitt noted that sewer and tax documents sent by the town included flyers about storm water recharging and other environmental concerns. Members praised the addition. Mahwish Mustafa brought up the reusable bag challenge and potentially bringing it online. Ann Parsekian suggested drawing up an outline of how to do it online, or possibly postponing until the following year. Ann Parsekian commented that a member of the Watchung Environmental Commission reached out regarding the plastic recycling.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm. Motion by Alice Smyk, second by Nancy Cook. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Planning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Ann Parsekian, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: June 23, 2020

RE: **Martin & Berman**
PB19-006
35 Spruce Street

The Environmental Commission has reviewed this application and offers the following comments. The Commission notes the critical forest habitat for the wood thrush, a species of special concern, that exists along the west and north portions of the proposed new lot and along the west portion of the proposed remainder lot. (Bernards Township Natural Resources Inventory, Figs. 13 & 14) The EC also recommends consideration of the potential for less disturbance in the northeast corner of the proposed new lot. Finally, the EC recommends that native species be selected for all replacement trees.



Bernards Township Environmental Commission

TO: Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

FROM: Ann Parsekian, Chairperson
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

DATE: June 23, 2020

RE: **Application Review**

The Environmental Commission has reviewed the applications listed below at its June 22, 2020 meeting and submits the following comments for consideration.

1. Heath – ZB-20-007 – 21 Old Stagecoach Road

The Environmental Commission previously commented on the original application, as reflected in the resolution adopted Oct. 17, 2013, page 3, and these comments remain valid. In addition, the EC supports the use of clean stone as a water quality Best Management Practice with regard to infiltration, as proposed on the applicant's plan showing proposed drainage stone.

2. Emerald Valley HOA – PB20-001

Should the Planning Board approve vacation of the requirement to maintain the emergency access road, the Environmental Commission recommends one of the two following options in connection with abandonment: (1) Remove the existing stone and reseed the area; or (2) retain the stone but maintain it from erosion.

3. Kangas – ZB20-009 – 134 S. Alward Ave.

The Environmental Commission recommends consideration of the potential for greater adverse disturbance – including removal of trees – that would occur if the location of the pool were to be moved further to the rear of the property. Also, pool water discharge may result from backwashing of filters; from draining swimming pools at the end of the 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 urges township residents to use Best Management Practices when discharging pool water.

4. Reynolds – ZB20-010 – 36 Kensington Rd.

The Environmental Commission has no comments on this application at this time.