



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



### **BERNARDS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES – May 23, 2022 – 7pm**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Debra DeWitt called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm in the Warren Craft Room, Bernards Township Municipal Building 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, Nancy Cook, John Crane, Todd Edelstein (Alternate 1), John Valeri Jr.

**Absent:** Jennifer Asay, Corey Fischer, James LaMaire, Sarah Wolfson (Alternate 2)

**Also Present:** Kaitlin Cartoccio, Recording Secretary

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

Motion to approve the April 25, 2022 minutes made by John Valeri Jr second by Nancy Cook. All in favor, motion carried.

#### **REPORTS & MISCELLANEUS CORRESPONDENCE**

None

#### **DISCUSSION**

##### **a. Subcommittees**

##### **1. Applications**

None

##### **2. ANJEC**

Todd Edelstein spoke about the Environmental Studies Scholarship and sending it to the Bernards Township Board of Education. Nancy Cook commented reaching out regarding the ANJEC grant and not receiving the grant and what the deficiencies were in the application.

##### **3. Native Pollinator Group/Plant Sale**

39 total orders from residents picked up at Ross Farm. Collaborative efforts from the Bernards Township Environmental Commission and Bernardsville Environmental Commission. Local Girl Scouts helped bring the orders to the customers car. Across the Great Swamp Watershed Area, over 23,000 plugs were purchased, up 50% from last year.

##### **4. Community Outreach/Education**

None



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



### **5. Guerilla Gardening**

None

### **6. Spotted Lanternfly Park Project**

All materials have arrived. Building will take place on May 24<sup>th</sup> and the goal is 60 traps. Installation will be on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the local parks. Ridge Gives Back Day students will help set them up at the parks with laminated Spotted Lanternfly Life Cycle cards.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Status on Current Projects**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Cook – ZB 22-005 – 34 Gerard Ave – Front/rear yard setback.**

The Environmental Commission notes the presence of freshwater wetlands on the property. Best management practices to protect these sensitive ecological areas should be implemented during the site work and post-construction. 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. Regarding the presence of and proposed development on the existing wetlands, the Commission would like the Board to confirm the State riparian buffer for this application. Upon inspection of the tree removal plan, per the ordinance, the Environmental Commission notes that for the 2 trees being removed, 6 trees should be planted in replacement. The plan notes only 2 replacement trees. Native hardwood species should be selected whenever practical. The applicant is required to contribute to the Township Tree Fund for any trees they do not plant.

Motion by Nancy Cook, seconded by Alice Smyk.

All in favor, motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **COMMENTS BY MEMBERS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm . Motion by Nancy Cook, second by John Crane. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kaitlin Cartoccio, Meeting Secretary



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

**TO:** Zoning Board Chairperson and Members

**FROM:** Deb Dewitt, Chairperson  
Bernards Township Environmental Commission

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT:** Applications Review

The Environmental Commission reviewed these applications at their **May 23, 2022**, meeting and forwards the following comments:

### **Cook – ZB22 005, 34 Gerard Avenue**

The Environmental Commission notes the presence of freshwater wetlands 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 Commission 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.

With regard to the presence of and proposed development on the existing wetlands, the Commission would like the Board to confirm the State riparian buffer for this application.

Upon inspection of the tree removal plan, per the ordinance listed below, the Environmental Commission notes that for the 2 trees being removed, 6 should be planted in replacement. Native hardwood species should be selected whenever practical. The plan denotes only 2 replacement trees. The Commission asks that the applicant be required to contribute to the Township Tree Fund for any trees they do not plant.

#### **§ 21-45.1 Removal of Trees.**

[Ord. #585, § 616A; Ord. #1357, 6-29-1999, amended]

##### **a.**

No tree with a diameter in excess of four inches DBH shall be removed if located a distance greater than 25 feet from any construction unless approved by the Board.

##### **b.**

All areas of tree removal shall be indicated on the development plan.



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

**c.**

All provisions of any other applicable ordinance of the Township regulating the removal of trees shall be complied with.

**d.**

When regulated trees or areas of trees are removed without proper approvals from the Board, the affected areas shall be replaced to the satisfaction of the Zoning Enforcement Officer in accordance with Section **16-3.5**, and the following table:

[Ord. #1429, 5-29-2001, amended]

**Replacement of Trees**

<b>Existing Trees Removed Diameter of Tree (inches)</b>	<b>Number of Replacement Trees</b>
0 to 6	1
6.01 to 12	2
12.01 to 18	3
18.01 to 24	4
24.01 to 30	5
30.01 to 36	6
36.01 to 40	9
40.01 or greater	10

All replacement trees shall be of nursery grade quality, balled and burlapped and not less than 2 1/2 to three inches caliper. Replacement trees shall be consistent with the type and species removed from the site and shall be planted in accordance with accepted nursery practice.

**e.**

Any tree along the side of any road which was planted specifically for street shade tree purposes shall not be removed without the approval of the Shade Tree Commission.

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