

BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 20, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

APPROVED:

The Bedminster Township Environmental Commission held their regular meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2013 commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Municipal Building, Main Meeting Room, One Miller Lane, Bedminster, NJ. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Chairman George Rodelius, Vice-Chairwoman Theresa Petras, Commissioners Brian Fahey, Art Stappenbeck, Jeff Leonard, Renee Mareski, Jeff Leonard, Jamie Sunyak, Leigh Schopp and Robbie Lert.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

Recognition of a quorum was followed by a reading by Chairman Rodelius of the Open Public meetings Act as required by law.

Adequate notice of this meeting of the Bedminster Township Environmental Commission was filed with the Township Clerk, mailed to the Bernardsville News, Bernardsville; and the Courier-News, Somerville; and to all subscribers; and was posted at the Township Municipal building, One Miller Lane, Bedminster, New Jersey, all on January 6, 2013.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(a) Approval of Minutes: Minutes for January 16, 2013 meetings were approved via motion made by Jeff Leonard, seconded by Brian Fahey.

CORRESPONDENCE:

We received a letter from Joseph Metelski which was read in its entirety. The letter expresses the writer's opinion on the use of solar farms in agricultural and open space areas. It further states that there is a bill currently in the state assembly which help to protect and preserve these areas. Mr. Metelski would ask that this bill be supported by the Commission. Further discussion will take place at our next meeting.

There were two letters regarding wetlands interpretations for two separate locations: Fiddlers Elbow Country Club and Country Club Road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Michelle Smith of Bridgewater spoke of her concern regarding the possibility of solar panels in her neighborhood. There is no long term research on what is in the solar panels and what the possible health ramifications could be in the future. Ms. Smith feels this deserves further consideration.

Joseph Metelski of Bedminster thanked the commission for reading his letter. He stated that he is also here for the presentation by Brian Fahey.

AGENDA ITEM:

Land Use Primer Presentation given by Commissioner Brian Fahey. Mr. Fahey gave a basic outline of land use guidelines and processes by which land owners go about obtaining variances. His comments were clarified in some instances by Commissioner Jamie Sunyak who is a professional planner. The comments by both were very informative and helpful for all who were present.

Dana Fischer of Bridgewater who was present in the audience stated that he enjoyed the presentation and then asked a question about the appeal process.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Art Stappenbeck: Gave a report on the most recent Open Space Committee meeting, which centered on how to use the funds to maintain the open space properties.

Robbie Lert: Attended a meeting on February 1st entitled: “Harvesting the Rain: Green Infrastructure for a Healthier Rahway Watershed.” The moderator was Chris Obropta of Rutgers Cooperative Extension Resources Program. The link is www.water.rutgers.edu and Dr. Obropta’s email is Obropta@envsci.rutgers.edu

Leigh Schopp is planning on attending the upcoming ANJEC workshop on March 23, which will deal with fundamentals of environmental commissions. She also reported that the Raritan Headwaters Annual Stream Clean Up will take place on April 20th and they are seeking monetary assistance as well as volunteers to help that day.

As there was no further business to conduct, on a motion of Commissioner Jamie Sunyak, seconded by Commissioner Jeff Leonard, the meeting was “Adjourned” at 8:33p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Theresa M. Petras
Vice Chair, and Acting Commission Secretary*