

BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 16, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

APPROVED:

The Bedminster Township Environmental Commission held their regular meeting on Wednesday, January 16, 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, Leigh Schopp and Robbie Lert.

Jamie Sunyak was excused.

Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

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.*

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN:

Chairman Rodelius asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair for 2013. Commissioner Petras was nominated by Brian Fahey, and seconded by Art Stappenbeck. Nominations were closed by a motion from Renee Mareski, seconded by Jeff Leonard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

*(a) Approval of Minutes: Minutes for December 19, 2012 meetings were approved via motion made by Jeff Leonard, seconded by Art Stappenbeck.*

CORRESPONDENCE:

We received a Certificate of Insurance from Ferraro Engineering.

We received an Application Notification of Wetlands Permit for 4 Old Farm Lane. They are applying for a general permit authorization in a wetlands transition area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONERS:

Robbie Lert: Has been a resident for 20 years. She is a designer, Certified Financial Planner, and has served on numerous builder association boards.

Leigh Schopp: Worked on economic development in Morris County and has been a resident of Bedminster 6 months.

AGENDA ITEM:

620 Holland Road – Deer Fence

Adam Yellin is the owner of an a8 acre property which has a farmland assessment for woodlands. He lost 386 trees during the October storm and is working on repopulating the trees. Christina Harrigan, Consulting Forrester, with Gracy and Harrigan Consulting Forester has been a property forester since 1993. She is currently developing a forest management program for Mr. Yellin in order to re-establish the trees which were lost. Part of the plan is allow for re-generation and part will be to re-plant. The options are to cage each tree or to put a deer fence around the entire property. The question was asked as to whether the fence would be temporary and it was explained that the trees need to be at least 5-6” in diameter before the damage from deer is avoided. It takes approximately 20-25 years for trees to grow to that size. Ron Kennedy of Gladstone Design stated that the property is farm land assessed so the owner needs to re-populate the forest and the best way to protect the new trees is to put up the deer fence. If he can't re-populate he will lose the farmland assessment. He wants to get the property back to the condition it was before the storm. George will let Joe Haggerty know the Mr. Yellin was here to present his proposal.

Tree Removal Application – Block 13, Lot 5, Spook Hollow Road, Bedminster, NJ

The Commission had a site visit to tour the property and view the trees that had come down in the storm, and to review the site plan with regard to removing additional trees for construction of a new home. It has been suggested that rather than have the property owner replace all of the trees at that site, he may want to make a donation to the Environmental Commission which would allow us to plant trees elsewhere in the town. This would be managed by the Environmental Commission, Township Committee and Forest Management.

Mayor Parker Message:

Thanked everyone for volunteering to serve on this Commission, especially the new members. If anyone has a question on anything, before calling one of our professionals, please ask George, who will in turn contact Judy Sullivan. With regard to emails, please be very careful, as we do not want to create a trail which could be miss-construed as an online meeting. Deer Management program – the goals are clear but there has been some miscommunication. Please give the Township Committee any necessary information. Just want to make it a little transparent. Want to make sure that everyone who may be enjoying the open space, ie. equestrians, hunters, etc., stay safe.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Renee Mareski: Question about the A&P shopping center. There were some chemicals left from a former dry cleaner. Remediation of the chemicals has been completed. A&P will be closing and will eventually be replaced by a Fresh Market.

Jeff Leonard: Asked about tree planting at the Spook Hollow Road site.

Art Stappenbeck: Gave a report on the most recent Open Space Committee Meeting. The voters of Bedminster approved a ballot question in November which will allow for 20% of the money in the open space fund to be used for maintenance of the properties already owned by the township. A subcommittee has been formed to discuss how the maintenance money could be used. The Open Space Committee will be taking a driving tour to visit all of the current properties. The Committee is also going to talk to the boy scouts with regard to stream cleanup. The Mayor would like the Open Space Committee to work more closely with the Environmental Commission for common goals. Need to schedule several joint meetings, looking for deer management ideas , easement maps.

George Rodelius: We belong to ANJEC and we should take advantage of whatever they have to offer.

Brian Fahey: Volunteered to give a lesson on land use laws. Some people from the Land Use Board may also be interested in this subject.

Theresa Petras: Asked about an update on the proposed solar farm on the Kirby property and was advised to go to the Land Use Board for that information.

As there was no further business to conduct, on a motion of Commissioner Renee Mareski, seconded by Commissioner Jeff Leonard, the meeting was “Adjourned” at 8:12p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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