

BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 19, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

The Bedminster Township Environmental Commission held their regular meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 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 Marc Sunyak, Vice-Chairwoman Theresa Petras, Jamie Sunyak, Tom Elliott, Jeff Leonard, Art Stappenbeck and Robbie Lert. Township Liaison Carolyn Freeman was also in attendance. Rene Mareski arrived at 7:45pm. George Rodelius was absent.

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, 2014.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

There was a recognition of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(a) Approval of Minutes:

- a. *Minutes for January 15, 2014 were approved via motion made by Jeff Leonard and seconded by Robbie Lert.*

CORRESPONDENCE:

Information on deer management programs

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

LAND USE APPLICATION: 1195 Lamington Road

Mr. Bob Morris from Gladstone Design appeared to seek Waiver of EC Checklist for his client. The project involves the construction of a lighting deterrent system to be placed on top of a single family home being built on the property. The height of the structure is 49 feet, which is greater than what is permissible in the R-10 zone.

An aerial picture was presented showing that the house is in the middle of a meadow, and it has been struck by lightning previously causing significant damage.

There were questions as to whether one lighting rod is enough to protect the entire structure.

The Commission felt that the proposal had no environmental impact and made a motion to approve the waivers being sought under the scoping document. Motion was made by Jamie Sunyak and seconded by Theresa Petras.

AUDUBON SOCIETY UPDATE

There was a joint Open Space/EC meeting where representatives from NJ Audubon Society and NJDEP made a presentation regarding the River Road project. The Township received a grant for the study. They will be creating test tunnels at eight points along River Road to look at migratory patterns. The team is looking for volunteers to assist with data collection between March and July. Training date to be held at the end of March.

DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Marc Sunyak distributed materials from Morris County and Warren Township as examples of hunting programs occurring in other areas.

The Commission had discussion as to the pros and cons of hunting clubs. Everyone was in agreement that the program needed to be regulated and that a club/group program was preferred.

Robbie Lert would like the program to be as transparent as possible. There was some concern about hunting near bird sanctuaries and that the properties previously hunted should be looked at first. Also there was a question about which deer would be permitted to hunt; i.e. fawns, does and bucks. She wanted it as controlled as possible and wanted to know if the town receives fees from issued permits or if there is any cost to the township.

Renee Mareski liked the Morris County ideas.

Jeff Leonard did not want the program to become a free for all, and that it should be managed by a group.

Tom Elliott had concerns on the cost to the Township, time/dates of when it would be allowed, weapon type, posting, how the deer would be removed from the site, utilization of the deer, competitive bid process and appropriate oversight.

Theresa Petras agreed that it should be regulated by a group. She liked how Warren listed the properties and days and what's allowed and said the program should try and mirror state mandates.

Art Steppenback said to look at Montgomery's guidelines.

Jamie Sunyak said the program needed to name specific properties and had a concern regarding that it should be regulated.

Marc Sunyak said they could go into the least populated and remote areas first.

Carolyn Freeman said that Raritan Headwaters may have guidelines for the Township to model.

Marc Sunyak said he would draft some general guidelines for everyone's review and feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sunyak