

Resolution of the Township of Bernards

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Resolution #2016-0207

Acceptance of Bernards Township Environmental Commission 2015 Annual Report

WHEREAS, pursuant to 2-18.5. of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Bernards, the Environmental Commission shall make an annual report to the Township Committee; and

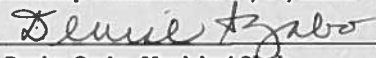
WHEREAS, the Environmental Commission is submitting a report pursuant to this requirement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Bernards, that the following report be accepted.

Agenda and date Voted: 04/12/2016

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify this is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Bernards Township Committee on 04/04/2016.


Denise Szabo, Municipal Clerk

January 11, 2016

The following is a summary of the 2015 activities of the Bernards Township Environmental Commission ("EC" or "Commission").

Mission Statement

The Bernards Township Environmental Commission is responsible for ensuring that environmental issues in Bernards Township NJ are given the right priority in order to protect and preserve natural resources of the Township and surrounding areas including land, water, air, and bios (flora, fauna, wildlife).

Goals

The Commission accomplishes its mission via:

- (a) taking proactive stances on local environmental matters, and strengthening the local planning process
- (b) coordinating rational, balanced reviews of development applications for the appropriate township bodies
- (c) increasing public awareness and understanding of local and regional environmental issues
- (d) keeping abreast of, and being involved in, environmental issues that affect our surrounding areas and communities
- (e) staying up to date on ordinances and regulations for Bernards Township with training sessions.

2015 Summary

General:

As an advisory body, the EC continued to provide commentary to the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, and Township Committee regarding environmental impacts and issues. During 2015, the EC:

- Analyzed 23 Board of Adjustment applications
- Analyzed 10 Planning Board applications
- Reviewed 2 DEP applications for awareness
- Conducted 2 tree removal site review
- Reviewed and discussed 4 correspondences

Budget:

In 2015, the EC committee spent \$420.25 of the \$2,350 allotted budget.

2015 Accomplishments

The EC accomplished its mission in 2015 through the following initiatives:

Charter Day:

The EC participated in Charter Day 2015 distributing informational materials. We setup and staffed a booth displaying information on:

- Pesticide-free organic lawn care
- High-efficiency LED lighting options

- Rain barrels to collect and store rain water for later use while reducing runoff
- Sustainable New Jersey Silver Certification for Bernards Township

We also gave away one hundred indigenous pine tree seedlings.

Lawn Care Pesticide Issues and IPM Resolution Update:

It was brought to the EC's attention that BT's baseball fields leased to Ridge Baseball Club (RBC) at the Valley Road facility may be using a synthetic pesticide and synthetic fertilizer lawn Care program by RBC. Such a program would be inconsistent with the BT 2008 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Resolution (Resolution #080520) governing the lawn care practices for BT owned property. The Resolution precludes the regular use of synthetic pesticides and synthetic fertilizers treatments due in part to children's health risks. The EC subsequently issued a letter to the Township Committee recommending that the Township obtain a letter of affirmation that the RBC is maintaining and will continue to maintain the leased athletic fields in compliance with the IPM resolution.

As originally championed by the EC in mid 2008, the Township completed its 7th complete of lawn care under its IPM Resolution (Resolution #080520 - "Integrated Pest Management"). The Resolution governs lawn care procedures at all township-owned lawns including all 32 sports fields. Regular pesticide applications are not used in the lawn care process under the Resolution on Township owned property.

Artificial Turf Fields at Mountain Park:

The EC discussed health related concerns associated with artificial turf infill material. The infill material, known as crumb rubber, is made of shredded automobile tires. The EC sent a letter to the TC recommending avoiding crumb rubber infill due to concerns of long term health problems.

Schools:

The EC continued communication with Mt. Prospect School administrators about their interest in constructing a learning garden. The EC discussed the learning garden/sensory garden project at Oak Street School as an example that could be followed at other schools. The project was directed by PTO volunteers with help from volunteer families and a local Girl Scout troop.

2016 Plans:

- Provide analysis of ongoing applications.
- Perform tree removal permit site reviews.
- Setup and staff a Charter Day booth. .
- Consultations with interested parties on lawn care.
- Encourage the adoption of a new riparian stream buffer ordinance that has been previously submitted by the EC.
- Hold an Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) training session.
- Review and consider revising the EC Ordinance for the purposes better defining its role in serving the Bernards Township.

The EC looks forward to continuing to serve Bernards Township and its residents in 2016.
Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Bernards Township Environmental Commission,

(Signed, March14, 2016)

Michael Kelly
Environmental Commission Chairperson, 2015

cc: Township Committee
Denise Szabo, Township Clerk