



February 2, 2021 Dennis Township Environmental Commission Meeting MINUTES

DTEC monthly ZOOM meeting, hosted by Dennis Township Committee member Scott Turner.

Present at the meeting in addition to Scott Turner were: Bob Penrose (Chairman), Ray Rebmann, Brad Rosenthal, and Lisa Salimbene (Members).

Following roll call, January reorganization meeting minutes were approved.

Mr. Penrose informed members there was no current correspondence. Information regarding Land Use applications are delivered to the commission mailbox. This information is also available on-line at the Land Use Board webpage (Township website).

According to Mr. Rosenthal, who attended the most recent Land Use Board meeting in place of Mr. Penrose who was unable to attend, the Pierson application to renew its gravel pit permit was approved. The other application, for an accessory structure to be built on a property in Belleplaine, needed no action from the board.

Mr. Penrose discussed two current Land Use Board applications. The first concerned Ronald Walters request to convert an existing garage into a "one chair hair salon". No questions were asked regarding this application.

The second application involves a 47 acre property on Academy Road. The owner wants to convert the current one lot into three "non-conforming" lots, a minor subdivision. There are no buildings on the property. Mr. Penrose noted that this application did not request any permission to build on the property. The property contains freshwater wetlands.

Members examined the map provided in the application showing the configuration of the proposed lots. Mr. Rebmann asked about the size of the two smaller lots proposed. Mr. Turner stated that no variances were required for the permission sought in the current application.

Mr. Rebmann noted that the application contained the word "cluster" and asked if this application was asking for such a permission. Mr. Penrose advised that was not the case and that an application for cluster building employs an "average" of the overall lot size to determine a possible number of buildable lots.

In other business, Mr. Penrose reminded members to use work sheets to keep track of hours devoted to commission activities. An annual report is submitted to the township showing these figures. A second report is sent to the NJ DEP covering commission work on tree-related activities. Concerning the second of these, he will contact Emily Farschon from the state to find out specifics of what's needed for the state report.

Other commission activity discussed concerned the municipal garden at Dennisville. Members were in agreement about reconfiguring the garden for raised beds. Mr. Rosenthal pointed out that this could be accomplished by building around existing beds.

Mr. Penrose discussed using black decorative wood. There have been issues over the years with ground contact and pressure treated wood (2-3 years problems develop). He also mentioned using masonry material. Scoop up the existing material, build the frames and backfill.

Members discussed setting a date to meet at the garden to examine and discuss options. They agreed on Saturday, February 20 at 9am (weather permitting).

Ms. Salimbene indicated she will be emailing members information regarding a potential recycling project that will involve the commission with the local school and county MUA. This item will be further explored at the March meeting.

There being no other business, Mr. Penrose closed the meeting.