

# Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission

## Agenda for Monday, April 4, at 7:30 pm

Members, if you will not be attending the meeting, please advise the chair. The meeting shall not last past 9:30 pm.

- 1) Approve minutes for March 21
- 2) Hearing on agenda items only - 3 minutes per resident
- 3) New Business:
  - a. Hikma Volunteer Day April 22
  - b. Student interested in environment
  - c. Tube seedlings and sapling giveaway
  - d. ANJEC's Virtual Earth Day Celebration - can the EC join
- 4) Plans:
  - a. 26 Chestnut Hill Dr. (See below)
  - b. 34 Orion Road (See below)
  - c. 125 Kent Dr. (See below)
- 5) Old Business:
  - a. Solar project siting - NJ Board of Public Utilities Stakeholder Meeting
  - b. Scout projects
    - i. Eagle Scout Project at Community Garden
    - ii. Other proposed projects
  - c. Community Garden
  - d. Stormwater Ordinance and MS4 Education status
  - e. Adopt a Drain
  - f. Sustainable Jersey Actions
    - i. Expired Actions
    - ii. SJ Grant for Rain Gardens
  - g. Tree Ordinance and Trees Wanted
  - h. Peppertown Park
  - i. Recycling
  - j. Clean up at Watchung Reservation
  - k. Topics for the township newsletter
    - i. Stormwater management education
  - l. Passaic River Park and GLHS
  - m. Projects with Watershed Ambassador
- 6) Citizens hearing on any environmental issues - 3 minutes per resident

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2022, at 7:30 pm

*Topic: Berkeley Heights Twp Official is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.*

*Topic: Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission*

*Time: April 4, 2022, 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3575747364>

Meeting ID:

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,3575747364# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,3575747364# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 357 574 7364

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aeoxvl6QP5>

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**Subject: 26 Chestnut Hill Drive, Block 3805 , Lot 14 , Zone R-20**

**Findings of Fact:**

- 7) Applicant proposes one-story addition to rear of the building with porch, deck, basement and walkway.
- 8) Groundwater recharge is apparently 6 to 12 inches a year.
- 9) Site is apparently not in a flood zone, riparian zone or wetlands.
- 10) Slope is apparently 3 to 8 percent

		Maximum Allowed	
		R-15/20 Zone	R-10 Zone
d. <u>Coverage</u> (from 5.b., Page 1)			
Existing structures (Item 1/sq.ft. of lot)	<u>14.01</u> percent	15%	20%
Existing accessory items (Item 4/sq.ft. of lot)	<u>13.75</u> percent	10%	10%
Total existing lot coverage	<u>27.76</u> percent	25%	30%
Total existing impervious (Item 1 + Item 4/sq. ft. of lot)	<u>27.76</u> percent	25%	30%
Proposed structures (Items 1 + 2/sq. ft. of lot)	<u>17.31</u> percent	15%	20%
Proposed accessory items (Items 4 + 5/sq. ft. of lot)	<u>14.73</u> percent	10%	10%
Total proposed lot coverage	<u>32.04</u> percent	25%	30%
Total proposed impervious (Items 1+2+4+5/sq. ft. of lot)	<u>32.04</u> percent	25%	30%

- 11) General Construction and Design & Grounds and Landscaping Considerations are included
- 12) No mention is made of trees.
- 13) No proposal for stormwater runoff has been submitted.

- 14) On March 2, 2020 the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection published amendments to the Stormwater Management Rules, N.J.A.C. 7:8, for purposes of replacing the existing requirements.
- 15) DEP's new rules require green infrastructure to reduce pollution and flooding from stormwater runoff. The Commission supports the NJ DEP's finding that the loss of groundwater recharge can adversely impact the health of streams and wetlands and the yield of water supply wells. Wherever possible, the Commission recommends retaining stormwater runoff by allowing it to recharge on site.

**Recommendations:**

- 16) Given that the total proposed impervious coverage exceeds the maximum allowed, the Commission recommends that the application as submitted be rejected.
- 17) Should the Board decide to approve the application, the Commission recommends retaining stormwater runoff on the property with green infrastructure, including Grass Swale, (2)Green Roof, (3)Pervious Paving System, (4)Small-Scale Bioretention Basin / Rain Gardens
- 18) Disconnect any downspouts or sump pumps from the street and connect them to rain gardens or vegetative swales. Information on rain gardens can be found at [http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain\\_Gardens/RGWebsite/rinfo.html](http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain_Gardens/RGWebsite/rinfo.html).
- 19) The use of cisterns and drywells may be allowed only where the other listed methods cannot meet the requirements for retaining stormwater runoff.
- 20) A comprehensive stormwater plan should be reviewed and approved by the Township Engineer.
- 21) If trees are to be removed, the applicant shall apply for a permit.

**Subject: 34 Orion Rd, Block 3401, Lot 22 , Zone R-20**

**Findings of Fact:**

- 22) Applicant proposes an in-ground pool with patio, retaining walls and fencing.
- 23) Groundwater recharge appears to be from 6 to more than 12 inches a year.
- 24) Site does not appear to be in a flood zone, riparian zone or wetlands.
- 25) Slope is apparently between 3 and 8 percent.

	<u>Maximum Allowed</u>	
	<u>R-15/20 Zone</u>	<u>R-10 Zone</u>
c. <u>Lot Coverage</u> (from 5.b., Page 1)		
Existing buildings/structures (Item 1/sq.ft. of lot) <u>13.23</u> percent	15%	20%
Existing Other coverage (Item 4/sq.ft. of lot) <u>10.40</u> percent	10%	10%
Total existing lot coverage (Item 7/sq. ft. of lot) <u>23.63</u> percent	25%	30%
Proposed buildings/structures (Item 3/sq.ft. of lot) <u>12.82</u> percent	15%	20%
Proposed Other coverage (Item 6/sq. ft. of lot) <u>17.17</u> percent	10%	10%
Total proposed lot coverage (Item 8/sq. ft. of lot) <u>29.98</u> percent	25%	30%

- 26) General Construction and Design & Grounds and Landscaping Considerations are included
- 27) The zoning officer notes trees are marked for removal.
- 28) Stormwater management for excess impervious surface is proposed.
- 29) On March 2, 2020 the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection published amendments to the Stormwater Management Rules, N.J.A.C. 7:8, for purposes of replacing the existing requirements.
- 30) DEP's new rules require green infrastructure to reduce pollution and flooding from stormwater runoff. The Commission supports the NJ DEP's finding that the loss of groundwater recharge can adversely impact the health of streams and wetlands and the yield of water supply wells. Wherever possible, the Commission recommends retaining stormwater runoff by allowing it to recharge on site.

**Recommendations:**

- 31) Given that the total proposed impervious coverage exceeds the maximum allowed, the Commission recommends that the application as submitted be rejected. The Commission recommends retaining stormwater runoff on the property with green infrastructure, including Grass Swale, (2)Green Roof, (3)Pervious Paving System, (4)Small-Scale Bioretention Basin / Rain Gardens
- 32) Disconnect any downspouts or sump pumps from the street and connect them to rain gardens or vegetative swales. Information on rain gardens can be found at [http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain\\_Gardens/RGWebsite/rinfo.html](http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain_Gardens/RGWebsite/rinfo.html).
- 33) The use of cisterns and drywells may be allowed only where the other listed methods cannot meet the requirements for retaining stormwater runoff.
- 34) A comprehensive stormwater plan should be reviewed and approved by the Township Engineer.

**Subject: 125 Kent Drive, Block 2061, Lot 2.02 , Zone R-20**

**Findings of Fact:**

- 35) Applicant proposes to install an in-ground pool and patio.
- 36) Groundwater recharge is apparently from 6 inches to more than 12 inches.
- 37) Site is apparently not in a flood zone, riparian zone or wetlands.
- 38) Slope is apparently 8 to 15 %.

c. <u>Lot Coverage</u> (from 5.b., Page 1)	<u>Maximum Allowed</u>	
	<u>R-15/20 Zone</u>	<u>R-10 Zone</u>
Existing buildings/structures (Item 1/sq.ft. of lot) <u>8.08</u> percent	15%	20%
Existing Other coverage (Item 4/sq.ft. of lot) <u>12.20</u> percent	10%	10%
Total existing lot coverage (Item 7/sq. ft. of lot) <u>20.28</u> percent	25%	30%
Proposed buildings/structures (Item 3/sq.ft. of lot) <u>8.08</u> percent	15%	20%
Proposed Other coverage (Item 6/sq. ft. of lot) <u>16.90</u> percent *	10%	10%
Total proposed lot coverage (Item 8/sq. ft. of lot) <u>25.0</u> percent	25%	30%

- 39) General Construction and Design & Grounds and Landscaping Considerations are included.
- 40) Trees apparently will not be removed.
- 41) Stormwater management for excess impervious surface is proposed. It is not clear how the infiltration trench is to function. Is the lawn to be sloped so that rainwater from the lawn flows into the infiltration trench?
- 42) On March 2, 2020 the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection published amendments to the Stormwater Management Rules, N.J.A.C. 7:8, for purposes of replacing the existing requirements.
- 43) DEP's new rules require green infrastructure to reduce pollution and flooding from stormwater runoff. The Commission supports the NJ DEP's finding that the loss of groundwater recharge can adversely impact the health of streams and wetlands and the yield of water supply wells. Wherever possible, the Commission recommends retaining stormwater runoff by allowing it to recharge on site.

**Recommendations:**

- 44) The Commission recommends retaining stormwater runoff both on the front and back of the property with green infrastructure, including Grass Swale, (2)Green Roof, (3)Pervious Paving System, (4)Small-Scale Bioretention Basin / Rain Gardens.
- 45) Disconnect any downspouts or sump pumps from the street and connect them to rain gardens or vegetative swales. Information on rain gardens can be found at [http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain\\_Gardens/RGWebsite/rinfo.html](http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain_Gardens/RGWebsite/rinfo.html).
- 46) The use of cisterns and drywells may be allowed only where the other listed methods cannot meet the requirements for retaining stormwater runoff.

47) A comprehensive stormwater plan should be reviewed and approved by the Township Engineer.