

WARREN TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2021  
ZOOM Meeting

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

The Environmental Commission (EC) of Warren Township, in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey convened in a Regular Meeting at the Warren Township Municipal Building, 46 Mountain Blvd., Warren, New Jersey on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

Wayne DeFeo called the meeting to start at 7:05PM via a Zoom meeting Conference.

Pursuant to the requirement of Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, Adequate notice of this meeting was given by posting a copy on the Township Bulletin Board and sending a copy to the Township Clerk, Echoes Sentinel and Courier News as required by the Open Public Meetings Act. All Commissioners are duly appointed volunteers working for the Township of Warren.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Wayne DeFeo, Laura Mandell, Susan Zeitels, Karen Task, Karen Kaiser, Christina Lewis, Valerie Meyers  
Absent: Peter Villani, Harold Black

**III. Discussion**

Wayne DeFeo welcomed the members to the meeting and announced that he would be the 2021 WEC Chairperson. Wayne thanked Laura for her many years of chairing the commission and thanked her for continuing with the group as a commissioner.

Wayne asked the group to discuss some ideas they would like to see part of the 2021 year and discussed goals for this year with the group.

The following ideas were discussed as items the group will focus on in 2021.

- WEC and Green Team to partner with Rory Britt and the Historic Sites Committee to enhance and beautify Codington Farms, the Meeting House and the Kirch-Ford-Terrill House. It was suggested to add rain gardens to the sites. Wayne DeFeo suggested having Rory Britt attend the next Zoom meeting to discuss picking one property to start that needs sprucing up.
- Beautify Warren – Improve the town trails – volunteers will be needed from organizations like the Boy and Girl Scouts, Lions and other service organizations. Spring and summer are a great time to get outdoors and have volunteers help to beautify the town. WEC can be the conduit for improving township trails and areas visited by residents.
- Improve the habitat for birding at Wagner’s Farm.
- Revisit the Rutgers plans from 2018 and share with the group.
- Finalize the tree protection ordinance and ensure it is only allowing for the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) to be removed and no other trees.
- Storm water protection ordinance – follow up with planning board to see if the township will be implementing state changes to the local ordinances. Susan Zeitels to provide information.
- Wayne DeFeo discussed Warren Township’s Town Hall building becoming a Well Health/Safety Certified building and shared with the group a summary of what that entailed. Presentation to follow.

## Minutes

The December WEC minutes were reviewed and approved. Karen Kaiser made a motion to approve the December minutes and Christina Lewis seconded it.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

1. CASE: PB20-08  
BLOCK/LOT Block 55 Lot 10.05 & 6.01 12 Gentry Drive  
DATE: December 4, 2020  
APPLICANT: **Kevin Thomasey**  
Proposal: Minor Subdivision (2 lots into 3), Side yard Setback Variance (Tennis Courts at Round Top)

#### **COMMENTS BY WARREN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION:**

1. Proposed dwelling as shown is too close to wetland.
  2. WEC concerned dwellings are encroaching wetlands just outside the buffer.
  3. WEC concerned with the tree removal, there are many mature trees that will be destroyed. No tree replacement plan was presented. WEC requests to see the tree replacement plan.
  4. No environmental assessment report was provided, WEC requests that report.
  5. The septic field is too close to wetland buffer, this is a concern if septic fails in the future.
  6. WEC concerned with water run-off and recommends a permeable driveway.
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2. CASE: PB20-09  
BLOCK/LOT Block 60 Lot 44.02 Brookside Drive  
DATE: December 8, 2020  
APPLICANT: **Warren Construction Co, Inc**  
Proposal: Minor Subdivision 1 lot into 2
1. WEC recommends permeable driveways to help with the storm water run-off.
  2. It is recommended to limit tree removal as extensive tree removal will contribute to downstream flooding.
  3. WEC requests to see the storm water run-off plans. There is a need for water mitigation. WEC recommends the following: a cistern system, a rain garden, and a Bioswale.
  4. To ensure the storm water run-off assessment meets the town ordinance, WEC requests to see final plans.

IV Adjournment – 8:20 PM Karen Kaiser made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Christina Lewis seconded it.

The next meeting will be held on February 10, 2021 at 7PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krisann Bintley, Secretary  
Environmental Commission