

**MINUTES
OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY
MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission was held in Town Hall on February 23, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

James Gallagher, Chairman of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission, called the meeting to order and acted as the Chairman thereof, and Kristen H. Hamilton acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Pursuant with the Sunshine Law, adequate notice in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6) was provided on December 1, 2008, of this meeting's date, time, place, and agenda, was mailed to the news media, was posted on the Township bulletin board, was mailed to those requesting personal notice, and was filed with the Municipal Clerk.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Dietrich Wahlers, Andrew Johnson, Barbara Rogers, Paul Mullen, John Reinfelder, Anna Drago and James Gallagher.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

David Stout, Township Committee Liaison

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 26, 2009, meeting were approved on a motion by Barbara Rogers; seconded by Paul Mullen. Anna Drago abstained; all others in favor.

WORK SESSION

Preserve Management Plan – Due to the recent subdivision of the property, an updated map of the Preserve should be available to place in the kiosk on Main Street. Dietrich Wahlers will ask Christine Smeltzer, Township Administrator, for a copy of the deed and/or survey map.

David Stout commented that the fields planted with native grasses look great.

In accordance with the posted rules, there is no parking allowed in the Preserve. A letter will be sent to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts emphasizing that there is no parking allowed during campouts.

Anna Drago advised that she has information from the Nature Conservancy on eradicating the multiflora rose.

Stream Cleanup – The Secretary will confirm the date for the Stream Cleanup with the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed.

Review of Recommendations of Natural Resource Conservation Service – The members reviewed the Conservation Program Contract from the Natural Resource Conservation Service. It was concluded that the Upland Wildlife Habitat Management section, which recommends planting native plants alongside the ponded area of Cranbury Brook south of the active farm field to provide

upland wildlife food and cover, could be a community service and/or Scout project. The boundaries of the area should be marked by a land surveyor.

Riparian Zone Model Ordinance – A map showing a 200' riparian zone was received from Middlesex County; however, the map shows 200' from the edge of the bank rather than the middle of the stream. After much discussion, it was questioned how the Environmental Commission should address the ordinance. Before any action is taken, David Stout will call the Department of Environmental Protection to ascertain the difference between the Flood Hazard Act and the proposed Riparian Zone Ordinance.

DISCUSSION

Barbara Rogers advised that the Helene Cody Foundation would like to do an environmental project in the Preserve. Ms. Rogers will provide them with the recommendations from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. It was also suggested that small identification signs for plants and trees could be installed.

Dietrich Wahlers sent a letter to the New Jersey Turnpike Authority advising of possible mitigation projects in the Preserve, i.e. eradicating the multiflora rose and/or a reforestation project along the Barclay property. Mr. Wahlers will attend the Township Committee meeting to ask the Township to send a similar letter to the Turnpike Authority. The Turnpike Authority is holding a public hearing on March 18, 2009.

APPLICATIONS

The Environmental Commission reviewed plans and the Environmental Impact Statement for the Alfieri application, located at the southeast corner of Station Road and Route 130 North. It questioned the relationship between the shallow water table and the bottom elevation of the retention ponds and their effect on groundwater quality. It was concluded that a memo should be sent to the Planning Board recommending that the design of the retention basins be re-examined due to the depth of the water table.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was thereupon adjourned.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify, that I am the duly appointed Secretary of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission, and that this document, consisting of 2 pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on February 23, 2009.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 16th day of March, 2009.

Kristen H. Hamilton, Secretary