

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
December 20, 2011**

**TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission was held in Town Hall on December 20, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum present, Jim Gallagher, Chairman of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and Wendy W. Borg acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

**STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law, adequate notice in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6) was provided on December 2, 2010, of this meeting's date, time and place, and the agenda was mailed to the news media, posted on the Township bulletin board, mailed to those requesting personal notice, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Anna Drago, Dietrich Wahlers, Andy Johnson, Barbara Rogers, Susan Goetz, John Reinfelder and Jim Gallagher. Paul Mullen and Haiyan Wang were absent.

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Joan McGee from the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed  
Resident Stuart Long

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the November 21, 2011 meeting were approved as amended on a motion by Mr. Reinfelder; seconded by Mrs. Drago. Andy Johnson abstained. All were in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Preserve Management Plan – Mrs. Rogers talked to Pineland Nurseries for estimate for trees – sweet pepper bush, spicebush and dogwood trees. She will also order deer fencing before the end of the year to restore an area in the Preserve. The fence can be removed once the vegetation is tall enough for the deer to not eat the buds.

Mrs. Rogers will contact Jay Gilligan, the school cross-country coach, on the white markings on the trail.

Environmental Initiatives

Sustainable Jersey – Possible points towards certification is 150. Ideas were discussed, including Cranbury Day promotion, the resolution, anti-idling signs, the Safe Routes to School grant. Mrs. Rogers will go to the Business Association to talk about promoting Cranbury Day as a “green day” and for buying local. She will gather a list of recommendations of targets for 2012 and assign members to each, for discussion at future meetings.

Mr. Reinfelder drafted a proclamation creating a Green Team in Cranbury Township.

NJ Invasive Species Strike Team - Partner Membership – Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Drago wrote a summary of the interns’ work for summer of 2011. Ms. McGee said the Watershed would do a GIS shape file for the year-end report.

Reinhardt Property – parking lot – Mr. Gallagher and Mrs. Rogers met with Township Engineer Bill Tanner and Jerry Thorne, Public Works Director, on the site and indicated an area for the parking lot, which will be right next to Plainsboro Road because the lot is too wet towards the back. Mr. Tanner will come back with a plan to Mr. Thorne. A path to the farm road needs to be mowed and maintained periodically.

No road-opening permit is needed because that portion of Plainsboro Road is not county-owned. Also, the water utility wants to put a structure near the lot for future water main connections.

A sign indicating the “Reinhardt Preserve” was suggested.

No Net Loss Reforestation at Hagerty Property – Mrs. Rogers reported the planting is complete. She reported that the township engineer said volunteers would wrap the jute on the trees. The final inspection did not include the subcommittee. Mr. Gallagher will call Mr. Tanner on this.

Commissioners reviewed a press release written by subcommittee member Kathy Easton on the project. The Cranbury Press published this in early December.

Environmental Resource Inventory – Joan McGee of the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association reported the township ERI is out of date, last revised in 2006. In 2007, all new mapping of township was done and needs to be included in a new revision. Also needing updates are sections on wetlands, air quality, historic resources and threatened species. She provided an updated known contaminated sites list and recommended the 2010 Master Plan be utilized for slopes and wetlands maps. She also offered to write a cover letter for the ERI.

Mr. Gallagher suggested the Commission do an overview of the ERI in upcoming meetings and set up a timeline for revision. Ms. McGee recommended the EC look into ANJEC grant info for financial assistance. Mrs. Rogers noted Amy Greene Associates would do work.

National Recreational Trails Grant - Commissioners decided this grant is not worth pursuing, because based on the factors used for evaluation and awarding, the project does not match-up favorably with the selection criteria.

Rain Barrels –Teachers would like a total of three barrels for the art and science students to use. The rain barrel workshop will not be scheduled on the same day as the annual stream clean up.

Sustainable Raritan River Initiative – Tabled until next meeting. Secretary will email information to commissioners.

Meeting with Parks Planning Commission - Mr. Gallagher asked Secretary to communicate with Mr. Weidner on this.

Board Vacancies – Two alternates are needed. Mr. Gallagher encouraged anyone who is interested in serving to attend the January meeting.

## **APPLICATIONS**

Viridian – Ms. McGee reported that applicant would be requesting waivers and hardship variances in the Riparian Zone. The Watershed will object. The issues are glass

roadway in the wetlands and cutting trees. Ms. McGee will send photos of glass and copy of letter she wrote last summer to Jeff Graydon, township Zoning Officer.

Cranbury Brick Yard, LLC – Application to NJDEP for implementation of a remedial action work plan requiring cutting or clearing of trees, placement of fill or pavement, and placement of a building. Hardship exception was requested to implement the plan and storm water outfalls for the storm water management system.

Secretary requested to write the NJDEP asking for extension for EC to comment since application was received one day prior to this meeting.

Cranbury Park – Upcoming application to NJDEP to encroach on existing wetland buffer zone. Mr. Johnson will review and comment to EC.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Year End Report and Goals for 2012 - Input given by members. Secretary will present at January meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

Dam Reconstruction Project – Ms. Goetz reported that the dam would be reconstructed in summer of 2012. Trees on Main Street will be cut down, the new curbing will be higher and the lake will be raked out to get rid of the vegetation. She said the Township Committee is leaning toward the option to increase the size of the spillway to 100 feet from 30 feet to allow more water to get through. Commissioners would like to review the study with the three options presented to the Township Committee. They would like to meet with Township Engineer Bill Tanner for a presentation.

Mr. Long expressed his concern of issues with Brainerd Lake and the Cranbury Brook heading west. In the summer, the brook passageway is not wide enough for a canoe because of the eelgrass growth. He said an electronic box is stuck in the lake in the mud under the Route 130 Bridge. Two trees have fallen and interlocked along the Brook and are obstructing the water flow. He also reported his ideas on making detention basins more eco-friendly and environmentally sustainable. Mr. Gallagher noted that the EC shares concerns about maintaining the health of our lakes and streams. We will encourage the design of eco-friendly and environmentally sustainable drainage basins.

Track Subcommittee – Mr. Reinfelder reported that the subcommittee met to discuss costs.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

With no further business, Susan Goetz, seconded by John Reinfelder, thereupon adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m. on a motion.

## **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 three (3) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on December 20, 2011.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

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Wendy W. Borg, Secretary