

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
September 27, 2021

The Township Committee Regular Meeting of the Township of Cranbury was held at 7:01 pm. by remote access videoconferencing in response to COVID-19 and the updated Open Public Meeting Act guidelines. Answering present to roll call were Township Committee members: Barbara Rogers, Evelyn Spann, and Mayor Michael Ferrante. Matthew Scott and Jay Taylor were absent. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/CFO; Chief Michael Owens, Chief of Police; and Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk. Mayor Ferrante led in the salute to the flag, and Ms. Rubin read the following Open Public Meetings Act statement:

In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, it is hereby announced and shall be entered into the minutes of this meeting that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided:

Posted on the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Office at 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey and remains posted at that location.

Communicated to the Cranbury Press, Home News Tribune and Trenton Times on January 22, 2021.

Filed on January 22, 2021 at the Cranbury Municipal Office, 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey, posted on the Township's web site and remains on file for public inspection. Township website was previously updated with remote access information on April 24, 2020, and updated June 18, 2020.

Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

Ms. Rubin read the following additional statement:

Cranbury Township

Statement on Public Comment during Remote Meeting

The public may electronically submit questions or comments to twpcclerk@cranbury-nj.com or in written letter form via mail to Cranbury Township Town Hall no later than 4:00 p.m. the day of the scheduled Committee Meeting. Name, address and phone or email must be included. Timely submitted questions or public comment shall be read aloud and addressed during the public meeting. Duplicate written comments may be summarized and noted for the record in a consistent manner.

To eliminate background noise so that all meeting participants may hear, please mute your microphone and remain in listening mode only. The Clerk will place all remote attendees on this platform on mute as well and will manage the order of the remote participant's comments. During public comment period(s), the Clerk will make an announcement that any remote participant seeking to comment must signify their intent by using the "raise hand" feature on Zoom. The Clerk will then unmute each participant individually when it is their designated time to speak. If you do not have a question or comment, please keep your microphone muted. Please unmute yourself only at the direction of the Clerk. All remote users must state their name and address at the beginning of his/her public comment.

Should a member of the public using the Zoom platform become disruptive, that individual will be kept on mute and receive a warning that continued disruption may result in their being prevented from speaking or removed from the meeting entirely. If time permits, the disruptive individual shall be allowed to speak after all other members of the public have been given the opportunity to speak.

The Township Committee will facilitate a dialogue with all commenters to the extent permitted by Zoom technology.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Ferrante asked if any members of the Township Committee would like to address changes or amendments to the following minutes. Hearing none, Mayor Ferrante asked for a motion to adopt the following minutes as presented:

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--Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2021 and;

On a motion by Mrs. Spann, seconded by Dr. Rogers, along with the following roll call vote of the members of the Township Committee;

Ayes: (Rogers
(Spann
(Ferrante

Abstain: (None
Absent: (Taylor
(Scott

Nays: (None

the Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2021 were adopted.

Appreciation of Josette Kratz, Planning Administrative Officer – Josette Kratz was present for the reading of the resolution.

Cranbury Township Resolution # R 09-21-112 - Mayor Ferrante read the following resolution in its entirety.

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 09-21-112
A RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION OF JOSETTE C. KRATZ**

WHEREAS, Josette C. Kratz ("Josette") has decided to retire from her position as Planning Administrative Officer of the Cranbury Township Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment; and

WHEREAS, Josette began her service at Cranbury Township on September 11, 1996, serving with dedication and distinction; and

WHEREAS, during those years, Josette personified the highest ideals of public service, and earned the admiration and respect of her Board Chairs, colleagues and applicants; and

WHEREAS, Josette worked with the Mayor's Trophy Fund Committee for many years to successfully obtain funding for several capital programs including replacement of playground equipment in Village, Heritage and Millstone Parks; and

WHEREAS, Josette has given of her time, knowledge, experience, intelligence, integrity and loyalty to the Township of Cranbury; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury expresses its appreciation and thanks to Josette for her service to guide and direct the Planning and Zoning Board and applicants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township of Cranbury hereby extends heartfelt wishes to Josette and her husband, Bill for good health, happiness and prosperity in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this Resolution be presented to Josette Kratz with heartfelt thanks.

Mayor Ferrante asked for a motion to approve Cranbury Township Resolution #R 09-21-112. On a motion by Dr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Spann the following Resolution(s) was adopted unanimously by the following vote:

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Ayes: (Rogers
(Spann
(Ferrante

Abstain: (None
Absent: (Scott
(Taylor

Nays: (None

Ms. Kratz thanked the Township Committee and read her comments stating “Working for Cranbury has been more than just earning a paycheck – Cranbury- thank you – you opened your arms and made me a part of your huge extended family. I will always be grateful and I will never forget the individual moments that have made my years working for Cranbury so very special. Thank you.”

Many members of the public, including the board chairs and township committee, thanked Ms. Kratz for her years of service and wished her well in her retirement.

**Reports and Communications
Members of Committee**

- Dr. Rogers – Dr. Rogers discussed the update received on the Municipal Alliance meeting by the Chair. Dr. Rogers noted that resident and Municipal Alliance member, Walter Wright, has recently passed away. The Commission, as well as Dr. Rogers and family, send their condolences were sent to the family. She attended the CHPS meeting and noted the Eagle Scout project was completed.
Boy Scout Troop 52 assisted Dr. Rogers in cleaning the Rain Garden. She stated the lake dredging staging area has impacted the Rain Garden and will follow up with the Township Engineer.
Communications Subcommittee – Cranbury Housing Management Company to confirm distribution of Library information regarding Newcomer meeting at Village Park on October 17th. Resiliency Plan to be placed under Sustainability Subcommittee. Dr. Rogers confirmed farmers in Cranbury are receiving newsletter and information on funding from NJ Agricultural Extension Services.
Mrs. Spann added a member of the public requested more information on solar panels and farmland preservation. There is some concern about the lack of ordinances regarding solar panels on farmland preservation land. Mrs. Spann added that stormwater management is affected by the installation of solar panels. She added the need for strengthening existing ordinances and more research needed for township to move forward. Dr. Rogers will follow up.
- Mrs. Spann – Reported the new Zoning Officer met with the Zoning Committee to discuss the sign ordinance and to provide his feedback along with the township planner's input. The sign ordinance is ready to be presented to the township committee members. Mrs. Spann reported on her attendance at the Historic Preservation Committee meeting.
Traffic and Safety Subcommittee received correspondence from a resident regarding Liberty Way. Mrs. Spann added that the State reported the traffic circle for Route 130 is proceeding nicely.
Mrs. Spann shared that Walter Wright was her running mate in the 2019 election and passed comfortably. She reported Mr. Wright was oldest sitting member on any board or commission at the age of 91.
- Mr. Scott – Due to his absence, Mayor Ferrante shared his written Board of Education update. A referendum will be held on December 14th, 2021.

Mayor

Mayor Ferrante – The following items were covered under the Mayor's Updates and Upcoming Events;

- **Library Update:** New website, New Neighbors Reception
- **Lake Project:** staging ongoing, lake lowering in-progress

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- **Scout Update:** Pack and Troop 52 Camp-out 9/2. The troop had 34 scouts participating in the camp-out.
- **Disaster Aid recovery:** applications went live on 9/17, County website for additional information
- **First Presbyterian Church:** Installation of Pastor Hannah Lovaglio
- **COVID-19 Vaccinations** as of 9/1:
 - 100% of Cranbury adults have one dose
 - 98% of adults fully vaccinated
 - (99% / 91% for all 12+ eligible)

Upcoming Events

Oct 2/3: Clean Up Day – DPW yard

Oct 10: Mental Health Awareness Walks

Oct 12: Candidates Night

Oct 17: New Neighbors Reception

Oct 20: Chair Yoga

Nov 2: General Election

Dec 14: School Bond Referendum

2022: Cranbury's 325th Anniversary

Department Head –

Chief Michael Owens, Chief of Police, August and September reports were previously sent to the Township Committee members for review. The Chief stated Main Street will be closed for Halloween on October 31st from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- **Recognition of Vito Cancia** – Mr. Cancia was unable to attend tonight, however, the Chief of Police recognized his heroic actions on July 5th, 2021 where he and another motorist removed the severely injured driver during a motor vehicle accident between two vehicles. The Police Department and township recognize his heroic efforts on this day.

Follow-up Items

- CERT – Chief Owens provided the past history of how CERT members were previously utilized. He does not recommend reimplementing at this time. Mrs. Spann stated the township needs to know what resources are available and needs to arrange communication amongst those resources. Mayor Ferrante agreed on more conversation, however, agreed with the Chief that the CERT should not be reimplemented at this time.
- Street Closing – Halloween – Chief Owens confirmed closure on Main Street during Halloween on October 31st from 4pm to 8 pm.
- Explore Communication Modes beyond Nixle/Town Message – Various alternate options were explored and discussed. Financial consideration and record requests need to be considered if additional employees will be in charge of the communications and monitoring all the platforms. At this time, the Nixle platform will remain as central communication.
- Cedar Brook Clearing – Township Engineer reported it is still in progress.
- Stormwater management for interrupted drain west of Main Street – Township Engineer reported it is still in progress.
- Resiliency Plan – To explore the path forward in resiliency and Dr. Rogers to address via the Sustainability Subcommittee. Flooding appears to be the call of action. Dr. Rogers to continue follow up.
- Drafting of Resolution to Waive Fees – On tonight's agenda for approval.

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- Reinhardt Preserve – Mr. Mullen has reviewed the area and revised the path accordingly. He will pursue volunteers for maintenance.
- EDAC partnering with HPC for 325th anniversary – Completed.
- Bike Plan follow up – Continuing discussion with County on Old Cranbury Road to be included in design.
- Petty Road concerns (Bill Bauder) – (1) Cleaning of culvert pipes – Township Engineer reported this is in progress and also (4) Man made berm – also in progress. (2) Dedicated signs at both ends of Petty Road and (3) Permanent barriers are items for Traffic Subcommittee.

Agenda Additions/Changes – None

Boards and Commissions – Vacancies: None

Ordinances –

First Reading – None

Second Reading – None

Resolutions – Consent

Mayor Ferrante asked the Township Committee if there were any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, Mayor Ferrante asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda resolution(s) On a motion by Dr. Rogers seconded by Mrs. Spann the following Consent Resolution(s) were adopted unanimously by the following vote:

Ayes: (Rogers
(Spann
(Ferrante

Abstain: (None
Absent: (Scott
(Taylor

Nays: (None

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION #R 09-21-113

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Cranbury that all bills and claims as audited and found to be correct be paid;

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 09-21-114

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, NJ

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A MAINTENANCE BOND
FOR CRANBURY STATION PARK

WHEREAS, Rockefeller has requested the release of their Maintenance Bond previously posted with the Township in accordance with Planning Board approval and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has, in a letter dated September 14, 2021 (attached hereto as "Exhibit A") recommended that the remaining \$212,586.44 maintenance bond be released:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury as follows:

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It has reviewed, agrees with and hereby accepts all recommendations of the Township Engineer as set forth in "Exhibit A".

1. It hereby authorizes the release of performance guarantees set forth in the Township Engineer's letter referenced above.
2. The Township hereby accepts the public improvements, if any so designated pursuant to the Planning Board's approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution, certified by the Township Clerk to be a true copy and forwarded to each of the following:

- (a) Township Engineer
- (b) Township Chief Financial Officer
- (c) Rockefeller, Joshua Kuskin

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 09-21-115

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PERMIT FEES TO BE WAIVED

RELATED TO TROPICAL STORM HENRI

WHEREAS, on Sunday, August 22, 2021, "Tropical Storm Henri" hit the Northeast coast of the United States, causing significant damage throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, many residents and businesses of Cranbury Township had substantial damage done to their homes; and

WHEREAS, the costs to Cranbury's residents and businesses to repair the Storm damage will be a great burden to them; and

WHEREAS, fees will be waived retroactively to the date of the Storm for residents and businesses who have already made payment for such fees; and

WHEREAS, the fees will be waived until December 31, 2021;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury that all municipal construction permit fees shall be waived to said residents and businesses for repairs to damage incurred by "Tropical Storm Henri".

Public Comment

Mayor Ferrante advised the following comments were submitted via email by the deadline to be addressed during public comment.

- John Affel – Liberty Way- Checked on township committee progress for Liberty Way bridge.
- Craig Vachris – Storm drains on Wynnewood clogged during September 23rd rainfall. – Department of Public Works inspected the culvert and it was completely clear.
- Pete Wise – Checking on the status of retail tenants in Cranbury Commons and the status of the affordable housing units above the retail spots.

Mayor Ferrante then opened the meeting to general public comment.

- Janice Mondoker – in reviewing the document from the NJ Planning officials it strongly suggests master plan consider the impact of climate change and impervious surfaces in future planning. She hopes Cranbury will incorporate.

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- Craig Vachris – Thanked Mrs. Spann and Mr. Taylor for responding to his initial correspondence and thanked the DPW for inspecting. He is following up on storm drains on Wynnewood. He suggested that storm drain be added to watch list of township inventory before any storms and the capacity needs to be increased or need an additional storm drain. He added the township enforce the leaves and debris in the streets. Mayor Ferrante asked Ms. Marabello for her input and she advised the township is facing what many other towns are facing in the need of storm drain attention in the upcoming years. This will be covered in the Resiliency Plan that Dr. Rogers is involved in. This action item will take time to complete. The leaf debris violations are enforced.
- Eman El-Badawi – Mentioned crop dusters in her area of the township are flying later evening and again more recently very early morning for a duration of approximately two hours. She asked if the timing can be changed and though realizes it is necessary, would like information and to be alerted on when the spraying will take place. Further follow up necessary into what organization is responsible for the spraying.

Hearing no further public comment, Mayor Ferrante closed the public comment portion at 8:17 p.m.

Action Items:

- Solar Panel/Farmland Preservation – Dr. Rogers stated there is a model ordinance. Mrs. Spann requested the ordinance and the Zoning Committee to follow up on. Dr. Rogers and Mrs. Spann to discuss further.
- Crop duster plane jurisdiction – (D. Marabello)

Adjourn

Mayor Ferrante requested a motion to adjourn. On motion by Mrs. Spann, seconded by Dr. Rogers and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Debra A. Rubin, RMC
Municipal Clerk