

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 18, 2018**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission was held in Town Hall, 23A North Main Street, Cranbury, N.J., on Monday, June 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

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 4, 2017, 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.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Barbara Rogers, Chair of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission, called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. and Jean Golisano acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Barbara Rogers, James Gallagher, Paul Mullen, and Theresa Vaccaro were present. Mona Bhatia and Janice McDonnell were absent, and Becky Mathers Lowery was excused.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sally O'Grady – Parks Commission representative
Dave Marabello, past EC member
Priya Patel – 8th grade student representative
Yamina Patel – Cranbury resident

MINUTES

The minutes of the May 21, 2018 meeting were tabled for review at the next EC meeting.

RECOGNITION

Barbara Rogers thanked Ms. Priya Patel, Cranbury School 8th grade student and representative to the Environmental Commission, for her dedication to the EC. She stated Ms. Patel was very involved during the year, and her maturity was much appreciated. Barbara Rogers stated Ms. Patel's role was essential in relaying the EC's purpose to the students and getting students involved. As a token of the Board's appreciation, Barbara Rogers presented to Ms. Patel a wildflower/native plant poster and a butterfly book, and stated she hoped Ms. Patel would continue to be involved in environmental issues in the future.

Ms. Patel thanked the Board and stated Ms. Ashley Chen would be the incoming President, and although she could not be present this evening, Ms. Patel assured the Board she will be a great student representative.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management –

Cranbury Brook Preserve – Pollinator Garden – Barbara Rogers stated she has been actively working in the Pollinator Garden. She stated she and Mona Bhatia installed two additional stepping stones and mulch so it is now easier to walk up to the garden. Barbara Rogers reported Public Works is doing a great job keeping the walking paths clear in the preserves.

Pin Oaks Preserve – There was discussion about a trailhead in the Preserve. Barbara Rogers stated she looked for the trailhead and was not able to locate it. Paul Mullen gave directions where it could be found in the Preserve. Barbara Rogers stated she has not had further discussion with a Scout concerning his proposed Eagle Scout Project in Pin Oaks, and she stated she will reach out to him.

Reinhardt Preserve – The paths have been nicely mowed.

Unami Woods – Sally O’Grady, Parks member, stated she has not been there recently. However, she viewed a Face Book posting by Tim Brennan showing his bike ride through Unami Woods and it looked good.

Sally O’Grady reported, as a way of giving back to the community, a local bike organization met with Parks and has offered to donate a bike station to Cranbury Township. The bike station would be placed on either a 3’ x 3’ or 7’ x 7’ pad. The Parks Commission is still looking for a good location to put the bike station. Sally O’Grady inquired if the EC would have any objections to having it at the Cranbury Brook Preserve. She briefly described some of the pros and cons of several locations, and while no decision has yet been made, she inquired what locations the EC would be amenable to. After additional discussion, Barbara Rogers stated the EC would like to be involved with Parks’ decision and would like to know prior to the final decision being made.

Sustainable Jersey –

Theresa Vaccaro reported she attended a workshop on electric vehicles. She reported \$10 million funding from the VW settlement has been set aside for charging station infrastructure. She reported it is important to get the Township Committee involved as electric vehicles are now here, and such items as policies, ordinances and dealing with charging stations will need to be addressed. Theresa Vaccaro suggested the EC start looking at factors to get Cranbury’s name in for a charging station. She stated a program has been in place since 2016 and entities can apply for reimbursement for charging stations at work places. She reported the DEP stated the funds will be available within the next year. There was additional discussion about electric vehicles and charging stations, locations for stations and signage for EV spots.

Year End 2017 Report/Goals 2018

Both reports were reviewed by the members and several changes were made. A motion was made by Jim Gallagher, seconded by Theresa Vaccaro, to approve the Year End 2017 Report, as amended. All members were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Theresa Vaccaro, seconded by Paul Mullen to approve the 2018 Goals Report, as amended. All members were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Barbara Rogers reported money is available in the budget and the EC will need to select one or two Sustainable Jersey action items to use the funds. Items to consider are electric vehicles, Complete Streets, and digitizing the website. She reminded the members that certification will be coming up again in 2019.

Annual Stream Cleanup

There was discussion about an old truck submerged in the ditch on the Cranbury Township side of the stream behind Millstone Park. Members agreed they are not sure what to do with the truck, and Jim Gallagher stated it would cost a lot of money to remove it.

Alfred Meiss Award

Becky Mathers Lowery and Barbara Rogers presented the Alfred Meiss Award to Ms. Jenna Adams. Chairperson Rogers stated the awards ceremony is always a good opportunity to get the word out that the EC is active and completing environmental projects.

Environmental Commission Recruitment

No report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Miscellaneous

Barbara Rogers reminded the members that certification will be coming up again in 2019.

She reported Mr. Matt Scott is the EC's liaison and she will send an e-mail to arrange an informal meeting with the EC members.

Barbara Rogers reported Sustainable Jersey Conference is sold out. She stated that is a good thing as more people are now attending.

Cranbury Day

September 8th is the next Cranbury Day. The members discussed including the popular stormwater model and trail model again this year, as well as presenting information about electric vehicles. At the July meeting, the members will decide who will be covering the table during the day. Sally O'Grady stated she will try to get Parks to

work with the EC at Cranbury Day. Barbara Rogers stated there is money in the budget which can be used for Cranbury Day.

APPLICATIONS

Jim Gallagher reviewed several Applications for Letters of Interpretation, including 80 Petty Road (Block 24, Lot 2.011) and 122 South Main Street (Block 16, Lot 8). There was also discussion about possible soil disturbance on the right sight of South Main Street past the Valero Gas Station. Paul Mullen will check on the disturbance and will report back to the members.

There was discussion about the EC not being an approval Board; however, it may provide input and recommendations on applications before Zoning Board approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Dave Marabello, former EC member, assured the EC that he will continue his pledge to help with the Rain Garden. He offered his help to organize maintenance activities, work in an advisory capacity, as well as getting on gloves to help. Mr. Marabello reported Mr. Chris Perez from Rutgers, co-wrote a PowerPoint presentation as a case study about Cranbury's Rain Garden, including the why, where, and how it was funded. He included a Rain Garden can be constructed when an entity does not have the \$6,000 by obtaining grants and getting volunteers to do the work. He reported he attended a workshop where the presentation was very well received. Barbara Rogers suggested having New Jersey American Water to look at the presentation because they awarded the grant to the Township.

Sally O'Grady, Parks Commission member, gave an update on Parks. She reported Kathy Easton, Chair of Shade Tree, attended the last Parks meeting. Ms. Easton will walk through the Township's parks to assess the trees. Sally O'Grady stated she walked through Heritage Park with Ms. Easton, who stated the condition of the trees in the park was appalling. Many lower limbs on trees need to be removed. They also saw Ash trees (Emerald Ash Borer disease) that will need to be removed and remediated. She stated there is also poison ivy in the northwest corner of the Park that needs to be removed, and stated the Park needs more attention than Public Works may be able to give. Sally O'Grady stated Ms. Easton has not yet walked through Village Park and believes that Park will also need a lot of attention.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, Paul Mullen, seconded by Jim Gallagher, thereupon adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m. on a motion. All were in favor.

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 four (4) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on June 18, 2018.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Jean Golisano, Secretary