

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
October 15, 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, October 15, 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, Dr. Barbara Rogers, Chair of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., and Jean Golisano acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ashley Chen, Cranbury School representative  
Sally O'Grady, Parks Commission representative  
Michele Till, Cranbury resident

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 17, 2018 meeting were approved as amended on a motion by Ms. Vaccaro; seconded by Dr. Rogers. The motion carried with Mr. Mullen and Ms. McDonnell abstaining.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Rogers opened the meeting to public comment. Ms. Michele Till, North Main Street, stated she was attending the meeting to learn more about the Environmental Commission. She stated she is interested in sustainability and the environment and was looking for a volunteer opportunity. The EC members welcomed Ms. Till and stated they hoped she would consider joining as a member.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Preserve Management – Mr. Mullen reported the Reinhardt Preserve was overgrown and really needs work. There was discussion about clearing the paths, and it was decided next spring or summer would be the best time to ask the Boy Scouts to help.

Unami Woods - Mr. Mullen and Ms. O'Grady will walk the Unami Woods trail tomorrow to blaze the path. Ms. Mathers-Lowery stated one path looks like it went up into the woods, and Ms. O'Grady explained it is a half-completed path to explore, which is not listed on the map.

Cranbury Brook Preserves -Dr. Rogers reported the first grasslands across from the School has a lot of trees growing in it. She stated the trees should not be growing in the grasslands, and Public Works will pull out the trees.

Pin Oaks Loop Trail – Mr. Mullen reported the trail has a lot of rogue trees growing next to the established ones. He reported he and his wife marked some of the trail to allow Public Works to do the spring mow.

Ms. O'Grady stated at the Parks Commission meeting, two or three items are listed for Mr. Thorne and Public Works to address. Called the "Short List," it prioritizes the work Public Works needs to do in the Parks. Dr. Rogers stated she knows Public Works is very busy and will be more so now with leaf collection but has always been helpful in completing work in preserves and parks when requested by EC. She reported Public Works is also addressing collapsing storm drains in the Township. Ms. O'Grady encouraged the EC to consider a Short List and stated Public Works has been very helpful in completing the Parks Short List items.

#### Sustainable Jersey

Dr. Rogers reported she will be attending the November 5, 2018 Township Committee Agenda to address Sustainable Jersey and the action items the EC has chosen to focus on, such as:

- Improve Public Engagement in Municipal Government
- Adopt a Complete Streets Policy
- Establish a Creative Team
- Municipal Communications Strategy
- Green Business Recognition Program
- Sustainable Land Use Pledge
- Make Your Town Electric Vehicle Friendly
- Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Audit

Dr. Rogers stated she will remind the Township Committee that Sustainable Jersey was adopted as part of the Master Plan and that recertification will soon be coming up. Dr. Rogers stated Cranbury Township is certified as a Sustainable Jersey Green Team Bronze member. In order to recertify, certain action items totaling 150 points must be completed. Ms. Golisano completed the Municipal Communications Strategy Submission Checklist, which is worth ten points. Dr. Rogers suggested Ms. Till look at the Sustainable Jersey website to learn more about the certification.

#### Complete Streets

Dr. Rogers stated she would like to do a survey of the interior roads of the Township. She stated the template for the survey is created and covers pedestrians sharing the street with cars and bikes.

### New Action Items

Mr. Mullen reported there is a Wildlife Pledge which will require the Township Committee's pledge of support of the US Fish and Wildlife Action Plan. Mr. Mullen stated the document is very lengthy and would require significant time to prepare for presentation to the Township Committee.

### School Programs

Dr. Rogers stated she has been researching purchasing wrist bands printed with "Sustainable Cranbury" for Cranbury School eighth-grade students. She reported the students assist the EC with cleanups during the year and asked Ms. Chen if she thought students would wear them. Ms. Chen agreed and suggested the color of the bands be blue. Ms. Till inquired if the bands were made of recyclable material, and Dr. Rogers stated she believed one of the companies offers bands made of recycled materials. She is waiting to hear back from that company.

Ms. Chen reported the Cranbury School students are working on Terracycle program, and have selected snack bags and granola bar bags to recycle. She reported they will be setting up buckets to collect the bags. Dr. Rogers asked Ashley if she would like the EC to supply prizes for the contest and stated the EC was very happy the students were starting the program so early in the year.

Ms. Mathers-Lowery and Ms. Vaccaro reported they have no report on the School Program, Wellness and Sustainability Council, yet as there have been conflicts in scheduling a meeting with the School. Ms. Vaccaro stated she will reach out to them again. Ms. Vaccaro reported the Cranbury Arts Council is also interested in partnering with the EC for Sustainable Jersey concerning creativity in the Township and the wellness of its residents.

### Environmental Commission Recruitment

Ms. Michele Till stated she is considering joining as a member of the EC. Dr. Rogers stated she hopes she does and stated she will also touch base again with another resident who showed interest in joining the EC on Cranbury Day.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Budget

The members reviewed the 2019 budget. Ms. Vaccaro made a motion to keep the 2019 budget the same as last year's budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mathers-Lowery, and with all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bhatia suggested budget funds be used for a big project each year. She stated the kiosk at the entrance to Cranbury Brook Preserve, which is very visible in Town, could use updating. She reported the information is out-of-date and faded.

Ms. Vaccaro suggested the EV wiring be included on the plans for the new Library. Mr. Mullen suggested Ms. Vaccaro speak to the Township Committee about the wiring. Mr. Mullen stated the Township is funding the parking lot and EV spots may be seen as reducing the number of dedicated parking spots. There was additional discussion about the cost of the electricity who would absorb or charge the costs.

### 2019 Meeting Dates

On a motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Ms. Vaccaro with all in favor, the motion to approve the 2019 meeting dates be the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. was approved. January and February are not regularly-scheduled Mondays and meeting will be held in the Second Floor Conference Room on those dates:

January 22*	July 15
February 19*	August 19
March 18	September 16
April 15	October 21
May 20	November 18
June 17	December 16

### Walking Trails Map

The members discussed adding the Walking Trails Map and information on the main page of the website, as requested by several residents on Cranbury Day. Ms. Golisano reported Mr. Tom Weidner, Chair of the Parks Commission, stated at the last Parks meeting that it may be better for the Township Parks to be on a separate map. Ms. Golisano will send the test links for the walking trails to all EC board members for their feedback and suggestions on the best way to display the maps. Mr. Mullen will send the Walking Trails Map to Mr. Weidner.

### Newsletter

Articles for the newsletter are due to Ms. Golisano by October 25<sup>th</sup>. An article has been submitted on Cranbury Day 2018. Ms. Bhatia will submit an article on lawn care. Dr. Rogers will do articles on Ms. Ashley Chen as the new school representative on the EC and a boy scout service project at the Village Park Rain Garden, and Ms. Chen will submit an article on the Teracycle Project at the School.

### Village Park Rain Garden

Dr. Rogers reported the Boy Scouts worked in the Rain Garden. They weeded and the Rain Garden looks great. She stated they initially helped install the Rain Garden and every year they volunteer with the EC to maintain it.

### Lanternfly

Ms. O'Grady cautioned EC members to be careful in selecting their Christmas trees this year. She reported the lanternfly, an invasive, tree-killing pest, has been found in three New Jersey counties, including Mercer, and the State has placed those counties under quarantine. Ms. O'Grady stated lanternflies like Christmas Trees.

### ANJEC Conference

Ms. Vaccaro gave a brief summary of the ANJEC Conference she attended last Friday. Former Governor Christine Todd Whitman was the key speaker, and there were workshops including a variety of environmental topics, especially EV.

#### Development Review Committee

Mr. Mullen attended a DRC meeting and reported that a new ordinance was recently approved which gives the DRC the authority to approve minor applications (e.g., minor site plans and subdivisions). Currently, the EC member on the DRC is specifically excluded from voting on these applications. Mr. Mullen will pursue the rationale for this with the Township.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

Mr. Mullen reviewed two Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation (Petty Road and South Main Street, south of Cranbury Circle).

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no additional public comment this evening.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

With no further business, requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mullen, seconded by Ms. Vaccaro, thereupon adjourned the meeting at 8:17 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 five (5) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on October 15, 2018.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 20th day of November, 2018.

Jean Golisano

Jean Golisano  
Secretary