

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 18, 2019**

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 Tuesday, March 18, 2019 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 20, 2018, 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. Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., and Jean Golisano acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Gallagher, Becky Mathers Lowery (7:05 p.m.), Jason Mildenberg, Paul Mullen, Barbara Rogers, Michele Till and Theresa Vaccaro were present. Mona Bhatia was absent.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Connie Bauder – Resident
Ashley Chen – Cranbury School Student Representative
Joanne Charwin – Cranbury School Counselor
Jeff Grundy – Resident
Lia Mastropolo – The Watershed
Sally O'Grady – Parks Commission
Matt Scott – EC Liaison
Robert Zurfluh – Resident and prospective new member

PRESENTATION ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

Ms. Joanne Charwin, Student Counselor at the Cranbury School, shared information with the EC and public about the upcoming Health and Wellness Fair to be held on Saturday, May 18th from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. Ms. Charwin outlined many of the participants and activities planned for this new fair, formerly the Drug Free Fair, which will now focus not only on drug prevention but also on healthy activities and lifestyles. The members unanimously agreed that the EC and Green Team will share a table with the Parks Commission and will have a trivia game with questions about the Township's parks and trails. It was suggested that The Watershed participate, and Ms. Mastropolo agreed to supply river-friendly information.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY – SCHOOL

Ms. Ashley Chen reported Cranbury School has been participating in the terracycling project. She stated there is also a lot of interest in students and adults participating in the Stream Cleanup on Saturday, April 6th. Dr. Rogers explained to the public that the Cranbury School eighth graders attend the Stream Cleanup as a fundraising activity for their class. They are assigned an area to clean, and for their efforts as a group, they receive funds from the Green Communities Grant.

Ms. Lowery reported there is a new posting on the Cranbury School website about the spring equinox.

Ms. Lowery left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

GREEN TEAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Green Team Advisory Committee was discussed and reorganized to include new members. As part of the Environmental Commission meetings, the Green Team meets once a month to discuss Sustainable Jersey action items and plans for current recertification. The Green Team consists of all members of the Environmental Commission and has several team members serving on other Township boards including Barbara Rogers, Chairperson of the Environmental Commission; and James Gallagher, also a Planning Board member, and Paul Mullen, also a Developmental Review Committee member; Becky Mathers-Lowery and Theresa Vaccaro, also Cranbury School Wellness and Sustainability Council members; and Jason Mildenberg, Michele Till and Mona Bhatia, EC members; and has liaisons with Kathy Easton, Shade Tree Commission Chair; and Matthew Scott, Township Committee member. The Cranbury School student liaison is Ashley Chen. The Green Team also includes Linda Scott, Cranbury's recycling coordinator and will continue to communicate and coordinate completion of action items with the Township Administrator, Denise Marabello, and the Deputy Township Clerk and Environmental Commission secretary, Jean Golisano. The Green Team also collaborates with the Board of Health and Parks Commission on action items.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the January 22, 2019 meeting were reviewed and amended. On a motion by Mr. Gallagher, seconded by Mr. Mullen, the minutes were approved by Dr. Rogers, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Mildenberg, and Mr. Mullen. Ms. Till and Ms. Vaccaro abstained and Ms. Bhatia was absent. The February 19, 2019 minutes were tabled for review at the April meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management

Pin Oaks Trail - Ms. Till reported she and Mr. Mullen walked the Pin Oaks Trail and found some trees across the trail, which Mr. Mullen removed. Mr. Mullen reported Pin Oaks interior sign was vandalized again. Otherwise, they reported the trail was in good condition.

Reinhardt Preserve – Ms. Vaccaro and Mr. Mullen reported the Preserve looked good, but it was very muddy. Mr. Mullen stated the seasonal rains make the area muddy; however, the trails were walkable. Dr. Rogers inquired if additional mud bridges were necessary. Ms. Vaccaro stated the parts of the trail were very narrow and additional blazing is necessary. Dr. Rogers stated after the spring growth, the Boy Scouts can help clear the trail.

Cranbury Brook Preserve – Dr. Rogers and Ms. Bhatia inspected the Preserve. Dr. Rogers stated a couple of trees are down which will have to be addressed by Public Works. She stated she will be meeting with Mr. Thorne this week to do some tilling and planting of wild flower seeds. Some of the benches in the Preserve will need to be replaced. Dr. Rogers stated she would like the Boy Scouts to build some benches in the same design as those built by a Boy Scout for his Eagle project.

Village Park Bike Path – The bike path needs attention. Dr. Rogers and Mr. Gallagher will check the trail further this week.

Unami Woods – Mr. Mildenberg reported he and his family walked the trail. The trail was well blazed and easily walkable even with a stroller. Ms. O'Grady and Mr. Mullen will walk the new section of the trail. There was discussion about the geocache in Unami and also about possibly connecting the Unami trail to the Firehouse trail in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Master Plan Update – Dr. Rogers reported the Master Plan Update is not a complete rework of the Master Plan and stated there are two chapters (Chapters 6 and 13) that the EC will review, which include green building, sustainability plans and conservation elements. A public meeting on the Master Plan Update will be held on April 25th. Ms. Vaccaro suggested looking at Sustainable Jersey to see if points will be given if arts are included in the Master Plan, i.e. how will the community support the arts? Dr. Rogers and Ms. Till will review Sustainable Jersey and outline what the EC would like to do for recertification and also for longer-term efforts.

Mr. Scott arrived at 8:00 p.m.

Penske Trucking Facility – Dr. Rogers explained to the public that Penske Trucking came to the February 19th EC meeting and gave a summary of their application that is currently before the Planning Board. Mr. Gallagher reported at the last Planning Board meeting, Ms. Mastropolo of The Watershed raised some very important issues. Penske requested a waiver for environmental impact; however, the facility is in an environmentally-sensitive area and Cranbury's ordinance requires it. Mr. Gallagher stressed it is very important for the public to be at the next Planning Board Meeting on April 18th. The Zoning Officer approved the usage of the property for Penske last July. A Township ordinance was recently passed expanding the types of allowable businesses on Route 130. Mr. Mullen explained the structure of the Ordinance was good in that the Township did not want to turn businesses away because they did not fit the list. There was discussion about the trucking facility being considered similar to the car rental business nearby. The

members further discussed the use of the site, including the underground fuel storage tanks, the engine washing station, parking tank trucks, and repair station and their possible effects on the environment. Members agreed it was not in the best interest of the Township to have this type of facility near the Cranbury Brook or across from affordable housing units. Ms. Connie Bauder stated trucks will emit diesel exhaust when warming up, which is not healthy for the environment. There was additional discussion by all members concerning the impact of the proposed facility on the environment. A response for the Planning Board was prepared concerning the facility. On a motion by Ms. Till, seconded by Ms. Vaccaro with all members present in agreement, the memo will be sent to the Planning Board voicing EC's concerns. Dr. Rogers inquired if Ms. Mastropolo could have The Watershed send a letter stating its concerns to the Planning Board and copy the Township Committee. Ms. Mastropolo agreed.

Parks Commission Update – Ms. O'Grady reported the Parks Commission approved by a motion the planting of the dogwood and redbud trees by the entrance of Cranbury Preserve. Dr. Rogers explained to the public that Ms. Bhatia prepared a landscape plan showing where the trees would be planted. For the record, Ms. Bhatia was thanked for hard work on the plan. Ms. O'Grady also reported Parks will have a table at the Health and Wellness Fair and shared some of the questions she prepared for the trivia game. She suggested the EC also compose questions about the trails in the Township.

Dredging of Brainerd Lake – Dr. Rogers requested an EC member volunteer to be a representative on the Dredging Subcommittee. Mr. Mildenberg stated his company will be doing the work so he must recuse himself. Mr. Gallagher will be the EC representative for the dredging project, and Dr. Rogers would like to participate on the ecological side.

APPLICATIONS

38 Brickyard Road - The members reviewed an application for a Treatment Works Approval permit for a subsurface sewage disposal (septic) system for a proposed greenhouse/warehouse building at 38 Brickyard Road (Block 14, Lot 3). After review, the members requested Ms. Golisano follow up with the engineer for clarification that the sanitary wastewater will only be from employees and not from any other sources.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Robert Zurfluh, Cranbury resident, expressed his interest in becoming a member of the Environmental Commission. He gave brief background on himself, including his professional background, interests and hobbies. The members thanked him for his interest in the EC and for attending the meeting.

Ms. Connie Bauder, Cranbury resident, stated she owns 11 acres in the Township. She reported the farmers in the State are experiencing terrible hardships because of the deer population, stating wildlife management is the farmers' greatest problem. She stated the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and members of the New Jersey Farm Bureau are working to come up with policies and practices to deal with the deer that are destroying tree seedlings and farm crops. Ms. Bauder stated there is an overpopulation of deer in the State and changes to deer hunting are necessary. She cited several municipalities, including Plainsboro and Hillsborough, that are addressing the problem, and requested

that Cranbury consider doing something as well. Dr. Rogers requested if management plans from other municipalities can be obtained. Mr. Mildenberg offered to research the issue and will report back to the EC.

There was no additional public comment.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, Dr. Rogers requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Mr. Gallagher, seconded by Mr. Mullen, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

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 (5) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on March 18, 2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 21st day of May, 2019.

Jean Golisano

Jean Golisano
Secretary