

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**May 18, 2020**

**TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission Meeting was held on May 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. by remote access videoconferencing in response to COVID-19 and the updated Open Public Meeting Act guidelines.

**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 16, 2019 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. The Township website was updated with remote access information on April 24, 2020 and notification was provided to the Trenton Times, Home News and Cranbury Press on May 1, 2020.

**CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum present, Mr. Mullen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and Jean Golisano acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Jim Gallagher, Josh Kohut, Becky Lowery, Jason Mildenberg, Paul Mullen, and Michele Till were present. Lynn Slavin and Theresa Vaccaro were absent.

Ms. Golisano announced that Ms. Mona Bhatia resigned from the EC on May 13, 2020. Mr. Mullen reported two residents are interested in the open position and were invited to attend the June EC meeting.

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Michael Ferrante, Township Committeeman and EC Liaison  
Sally O'Grady, Parks Commission Chair  
Steven Golisano, Cranbury Historic and Preservation Society

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Mr. Gallagher, seconded by Mr. Mildenberg, the Minutes were approved by all members present, with the exception of Dr. Kohut who abstained.

**REPORTS**

Township Committee – Mr. Michael Ferrante, TC Liaison, stated virtual meetings conducted during the pandemic should focus on essential items. He reported that while the usual Memorial Day Parade was cancelled, there will be a parade of Fire Department, Police, First Aid Squad and Public Works vehicles that will drive the streets of Cranbury. Residents can sit in front of their homes to see the parade and thank the First Responders.

Mr. Ferrante reported the dredging of Brainerd Lake is scheduled this fall. He reported staff is back at Town Hall, and Ms. Golisano confirmed staff is back on a staggered basis with the building still closed to the public. Mr. Mullen inquired when Town Hall would be open to the public and meetings could be held, and Mr. Ferrante stated there was no date at this time. He stated there would probably be an electronic presence in meetings going forward.

Mr. Gallagher inquired if there are any meetings scheduled for the dredging project, and Mr. Ferrante stated the bids are being reviewed now and no meetings are currently scheduled.

Planning Board – Mr. Mullen reported at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Planning Board Meeting the resolution for the Alfieri Application was approved. He reported the variance requested by Toll Brothers was denied at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Toll Brothers will come before the Planning Board again at the June 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Mr. Mullen reported there was no DRC Meeting.

Zoning Committee – Mr. Mullen reported the Zoning Committee held a number of meetings in the last few months, which were run by Township Committeewoman, Evelyn Spann. He stated the issues reviewed were not environmental in nature and included off-street parking; preserving scenic corridors along Cranbury's roads; and consolidating the signage ordinance. He reported the Environmental Commission will be asked to update the stormwater management ordinance. He stated Mr. Mike Pisauro from The Watershed will advise Cranbury about the new State ordinance and what municipalities like Cranbury can do to improve upon it.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Toll Brothers/Petty Road

*Mr. Gallagher recused himself from the discussion at 7:17 p.m.*

Mr. Mullen stated, as previously mentioned, that the Toll Brothers application was rejected by the Planning Board at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Toll Brothers submitted new plans. Ms. Mullen previously sent a link out so EC members could see the changes. He reported Toll Brothers removed seven units. Mr. Mullen stated he is happy with the changes and did not see any new issues for EC to address. He requested members review the plans and let him know immediately if there were any issues.

Mr. Mildenberg included the difficulty to identify in the Stormwater Management Report the correlation between the Soil Sampling Locations and Recharge systems. Additionally, he pointed out the calculation provided makes no definitive statement towards infiltration rate of the in-situ soil both assumed and actual as determined through the provided soil information. Were Infiltration tests performed? Were those values used in the calculation? Mr. Mullen stated it is within the purview of the EC to ask these questions. Dr. Kohut inquired if the permitting process requires infiltration calculations. Mr. Mildenberg stated EC can ask for infiltration tests results and review the comments. If this is part of the permitting process, the EC is allowed to comment. Mr. Mildenberg stated the EC addresses the riparian issues and The Watershed would address the infiltration and impervious issues. Mr. Mullen stated Mr. Mike Pisauro of The Watershed will be at the next Planning Board meeting and will ask questions.

Ms. Till inquired about traffic, stating the plans include a traffic study was done at the entrance and exit of the complex. She inquired how the complex will affect other Township roads, such as Petty Road. The traffic study in general states the roads are acceptable.

*Mr. Gallagher returned to the meeting.*

Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance – Mr. Mullen stated the EC will wait to see what action the State takes on single use plastic bags. This item will be removed from the agenda going forward.

### **Preserve Management**

West Property Drive Kiosk – Dr. Mathers reported the work on the kiosk has been stalled due to COVID-19. Ms. Barbara Adams was working on the kiosk and her students were going to create artwork for it. Dr. Mathers stated she will know more for the next EC meeting after she speaks with Ms. Adams.

### **Unami Woods - Pump House Road Trail**

Mr. Mullen noted that this was the first opportunity to discuss the trail. He stated that he walked the area between the pump house and Unami Woods last June to see if it was conducive to a trail but that the EC decided not pursue it because of possible encroachment on private property. He stated the EC also required the approval of homeowners in the area to avoid the public backlash that occurred when a trail was contemplated behind Shadow Oaks. Ms. O'Grady stated she was not at that meeting and thought she could proceed. She reported she received approvals from the homeowners and looked at the property markers to verify that the trail is on Township property.

Mr. Mullen stated his support for the trail, which is very popular with residents. He stated that he was unaware that Ms. O'Grady was creating this trail until mid-March when she informed him that she had created the trail, advertised it to the community and that it was already being used. Mr. Mullen stated that the Parks Commission did not have the authority to create such a trail. Their role is to advise the Township Committee on the use and management of Cranbury's parks. The EC's role is to advise the Township Committee on the use and management of Cranbury's open spaces. Ms. O'Grady stated that she created this trail as a private citizen, not as Chair of the Parks Commission. Mr. Mullen stated it is important that residents not think they can put a trail or anything in open space, and that not even the EC can create a trail without the approval of the Township Committee.

Many members had already walked the trail and were very complimentary about it. Mr. Mullen agreed but stated the process that must be followed before any additional work can be done on it. He asked the EC members to walk the trail and come to the June meeting prepared to discuss any concerns or suggestions. The EC will then vote on any changes that are needed and whether this trail should be recommended to the TC for approval. If the EC agrees to move forward, Mr. Mullen and Ms. O' Grady will present the trail to the Township Committee for approval.

Mr. Gallagher inquired about the property lines, and Ms. O'Grady stated she met with the three homeowners and viewed the property markers. She stated the property owners were very happy with the trail. Mr. Mullen stated he took photos where the trail is close to the official markers, and stated he is confident the trail is on Township property.

Mr. Ferrante liked the trail, as did the EC members, and thanked Ms. O'Grady for her efforts and initiative, stating many residents are enjoying the trail at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Parks Commission Report

Ms. O'Grady reported the sign to the Cranbury Brook Preserve does not have the hanging "No Smoking sign." She stated on the Eagle Scout Trail, the bench on the east side of the trail is not usable and must be repaired or removed.

She reported the trees on the Hagerty Property on Old Cranbury Road are being choked by prickly vines. She further reported the trees in Village Park have damage from beavers. She recommended the DPW consider using chicken wire as a deterrent rather than beaver fencing. She stated it would look better, cost less, and make the area easier for DPW to mow. She stated she sent her suggestion to the DPW.

To close, Ms. O'Grady stated she would like to call the trail, which is actually in the Preserve and not in Unami Woods, the "Bridge Trail."

### Sustainable Jersey

Ms. Till reported she and Dr. Rogers gave a presentation to the Township Committee. The focus of the presentation was the EC's vision and goals for sustainable Cranbury, including working towards Silver Status, and reducing energy. She stated Sustainable Jersey is an organization that can help the EC achieve its goals. She stated the focus working toward Silver will be energy. She stated no one person can do this and she is confident the Sustainable and Green Team Subcommittee will pull everything together. She stated the presentation went very well and was also well received.

### Alfred Meiss Award

Dr. Mathers reported Cranbury School will be conducting a virtual awards ceremony for this year's graduating eighth grade students. The teachers will select the winner of the Alfred Meiss Award from students who have participated in the essay contest, following the guidelines set by the EC. Ms. Golisano stated she would pick up the \$100 gift card and mail it to Ms. Denise Marra at Cranbury School.

## **APPLICATIONS**

There were no applications this evening.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### Historic Home Rain Garden

Mr. Steven Golisano representing Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society gave the members an update of the historic home in Millstone Park. He reported the ground was graded and seeded and a sweet gum tree was planted. He stated CHPS placed flags in the Park to mark the proposed location of the 8.5-foot by 18-foot rain garden. The rain garden will be 10 feet away from the house, and its downhill location will offset the runoff from the house's roof. He stated this rain garden will be designed to represent a historical garden, while also meeting the 150 square foot requirement set by the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission. Mr. Golisano stated CHPS would welcome any suggestions for the plantings. Mr. Dave Marabello, former EC member, was

participating at the meeting and had worked on the rain garden in Village Park. He reported Rutgers assisted in the plant selection for the Village Park rain garden. Mr. Marabello stated Mr. Golisano could call him for assistance and contact information.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

With no further business, Mr. Mullen requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Dr. Kohut, seconded by Mr. Mildenberg, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 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 five (5) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on May 18, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 16th day of June, 2020.

Jean Golisano

Jean Golisano

Environmental Commission Secretary