

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

June 15, 2020

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission Meeting was held on June 15, 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 (7:04), Jason Mildenberg (7:04), Paul Mullen, Lynn Slavin (7:05) Michele Till and Theresa Vaccaro were present.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Michael Ferrante, Township Committeeman and EC Liaison
Dr. Aly Cohen and Dr. John Krasting – Applicants for EC Second Alternate Position

MINUTES

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

REPORTS

Township Committee – Mr. Michael Ferrante, TC Liaison, reported the dredging of Brainerd Lake will be moving forward. He reported the Township will not be holding the July 5th fireworks this year; however, the Township Committee is looking at planning other activities. Mr. Ferrante reported Township meetings will continue to be virtual.

Planning Board – Mr. Gallagher attended the June 4th Planning Board Meeting and stormwater management was discussed.

Mr. Mullen reported there was no DRC Meeting.

Zoning Committee – Mr. Mullen reported the Zoning Committee has been working on an update to off-street parking requirements in the Village Commercial District and a scenic corridor ordinance. Work has also begun on a consolidated and streamlined signage ordinance.

Mr. Mullen stated a majority of this evening's meeting will address Cranbury's stormwater management ordinance, what the State's ordinance is, and what Cranbury needs to do to comply with it.

APPLICANTS FOR OPEN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION POSITION

Dr. Aly Cohen and Dr. John Krasting were present to share a brief summary of their credentials and to answer questions posed by EC members. Mr. Mullen thanked the applicants for attending the meeting, and stated Mayor Matt Scott will be making the appointment to the Second Alternate position.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION

Mr. Michael L. Pisauero, Policy Director of The Watershed Institute, gave a presentation on Stormwater Management in Cranbury. The presentation included discussion on flooding, pressures from development, water pollution issues, old and new thinking on stormwater management, NJDEP Green Infrastructure Rule, and strengthening Cranbury's Stormwater Ordinance. Mr. Pisauero then answered questions from the EC members and offered his assistance whenever needed. Mr. Mullen thanked Mr. Pisauero for his time and informative presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management

West Property Drive Kiosk – Dr. Mathers reported the work on the kiosk has been stalled due to COVID-19. Ms. Barbara Adams offered to continue to revitalize the kiosk and hopefully her students in the fall will be able to create artwork for the kiosk.

Unami Woods - Pump House Road Trail

Mr. Mullen stated at the last meeting he had requested members to walk the trail. He stated he felt many are in favor of the trail, and the public has expressed its gratitude for it. Mr. Mullen inquired if members had any comments and asked if any changes to the trail were necessary before seeking Township Committee approval. Dr. Kohut stated he had no concerns and stated it was a great way to connect Unami Woods to downtown. Mr. Mullen stated previously the access to Unami Woods was only through Wynnewood Drive, and now the new trail nicely connects Unami Woods to the Village.

He stated he received a letter from a resident commending the trail; however, several issues were brought up, including a pile of dirt which is causing some erosion issues. Mr. Mullen stated he thought this should be watched since the dirt was on Township property. He stated the only issue he has with the trail is a bench place on the roots of a tree on the bank of the Cranbury Brook. He asked that members look at this bench and get back to him with any comments or concerns.

Mr. Ferrante asked if the EC would be moving forward on this. Mr. Mullen stated he believes the EC can now get approval from the TC. He was hoping for more feedback first from the other members. Mr. Ferrante stated it would be beneficial to bring the recommendation to the TC to get the trail in compliance. Mr. Mullen's only objection to the trail is the bench, and stated if he did not hear from any other members, he would suggest the trail without the bench. Mr. Mildenberg stated he thought the trail is beneficial and he is in favor of it. As concerns erosion, however, he stated erosion is the nature of any trail.

Mr. Mullen stated it is important to have the approval process stated so that future trails are not built without permission. Mr. Ferrante asked Mr. Mullen communicate with him when he should bring this issue to the TC.

Mr. Tom Weidner, Parks member, stated he understood Mr. Mullen would be attending a Parks meeting to discuss this. Mr. Mullen stated he did not intend to discuss the trail, but rather the roles and responsibilities of both the Parks and Environmental Commissions. He stated there are gray areas between the two groups and that he would like to address the issue before all the Parks members. Mr. Weidner stated he is concerned that the EC would submit a recommendation to the TC without Parks approval. Mr. Mullen stated he and Ms. O'Grady would go to the TC together. Mr. Weidner stated the EC and Parks Commission has always worked cooperatively together and hope to continue to do so in the future. Mr. Mullen agreed and stated he is on the Parks agenda and the discussion can be addressed in depth at that time.

Sustainable Jersey

Ms. Till stated there was nothing to report this evening.

Alfred Meiss Award

Dr. Mathers reported a \$100 gift card was awarded to Syra Bhatt as recipient of the Alfred Meiss Environmental Appreciation Award for Cranbury School. Dr. Mathers stated she will obtain a copy of Ms. Bhatt's essay to share with the EC members.

Girl Scout Gold Award

Ms. Noor Bhatia is working on her Girl Scout Gold Award. Mr. Mullen reported he met with Ms. Bhatia and her mother at the Cranbury Preserve to discuss her project. Ms. Bhatia would like to place four bee boxes off the trails in the Cranbury Brook Preserve. Mr. Mullen stated one bee box will be placed near the pollinator garden kiosk and others may or may not be visible as they will be placed in more secluded areas. He stated the bee boxes will be a nice addition to the Preserve. Ms. Bhatia will possibly come to a future EC meeting to further discuss her project.

APPLICATIONS

There were no applications this evening; however, Ms. Golisano shared a notification from PSE&G concerning maintaining vegetation by trimming tree limbs near utility lines.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment this evening.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, Mr. Mullen requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Dr. Mathers, seconded by Mr. Gallagher, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 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 (4) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on June 15, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 21st day of July, 2020.

Jean Golisano

Jean Golisano

Environmental Commission Secretary