

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**July 20, 2020**

**TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission was held on July 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. by remote access videoconferencing in response to COVID-19 and the updated Open Public Meetings 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 Zoom remote access information and notification was provided to the Trenton Times, Home News and Cranbury Press on June 26, 2020.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Jean Golisano, Deputy Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to Dr. John Krasting, new First Alternate Member.

**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, John Krasting; Jason Mildenberg; Paul Mullen, Michele Till and Theresa Vaccaro were present. Josh Kohut, Becky Mathers Lowery and Lynn Slavin were absent.

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Michael Ferrante, Township Committeeman and EC Liaison  
Sally O'Grady, EC Chair  
Brendan Hanson, EC Member  
Jackie Johnson, Shade Tree Member  
Nick Marolda, Kathleen Marolda, Brian Scarpulla and Lorraine Morris, residents

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the June 15, 2020 meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Ms. Vaccaro, seconded by Mr. Mildenberg, the Minutes were approved by all members present.

**REPORTS**

Township Committee – Mr. Michael Ferrante, TC Liaison, reported the Township Committee approved the dredging of Brainerd Lake by TriCon Enterprises, which has a very reputable water-lowering subcontractor, and stated there are proper precautions in place and engineers on site to ensure the project is executed properly. Mr. Ferrante also reported the Cranbury School informed

the Public Library that they will need to vacate their space in the School by August 15. This will enable the School to meet the COVID mandates necessary for the opening of school this September. Mr. Ferrante stated this move stresses the importance for the Township to have a Library and community center to serve residents and students.

Planning Board – Mr. Gallagher attended the July 9<sup>th</sup> Planning Board Meeting and reported the Toll Brothers application for the housing development was passed. After discussion, it was agreed Petty Road would be reconstructed in its entirety. Mr. Gallagher stated it was also agreed that the applicant would seek through an LSRP a site-wide remedial action outcome indicating the site is safe for residential use, similar to what was done for the Hagerty property. He stated it was beneficial the EC had commented on this issue. Mr. Gallagher reported the application was unanimously approved, and the Planning Board is waiting to review the final agreement.

Zoning Committee – Mr. Mullen reported the off-street parking ordinance was introduced at the July 13<sup>th</sup> Township Committee meeting. He reported the scenic overlay ordinance was put on hold pending additional discussions with farmers. Mr. Mullen stated the Zoning Committee will not meet again until late August at which time they will work to complete the signage ordinance. He reported once the signage ordinance is done, the EC will turn its attention to working on the stormwater maintenance ordinance. He reported he received late this afternoon the model stormwater maintenance ordinance from The Watershed Institute. Mr. Mullen stated he forwarded the ordinance to the members late this afternoon, and stated it would not be discussed until members had time to review it. He requested members be prepared to discuss the ordinance at the September meeting. Dr. Krasting stated it appeared The Watershed had added verbiage to the DEP's model. He inquired if it would be possible to request a copy of The Watershed's model ordinance showing tracking changes so the members could easily see what verbiage was added to or deleted from the DEP's model ordinance. Mr. Mullen stated he would request the document from The Watershed.

#### **APPLICATION – Cranbury Station, LLC**

Mr. Mullen requested the discussion on the Cranbury Station, LLC application be moved up in the agenda to accommodate the public attending the meeting. Mr. Nick Marolda, Monroe resident, stated his concerns about Vernal Pool 1810 listed on the rare species report, which is located on the south end of the field in front of a deep pond. Mr. Marolda shared photos of the field, pond and vernal pool, and stated it is a habitat for many types of vegetation and animals. Mr. Marolda stated the vernal pool is a significant size, and in June the vernal pond was filled in by soil and the vernal habitat is gone. Mr. Marolda was in contact with Land Use Compliance Officer, Robert Clark, who is investigating the filling of that vernal pool. Mr. Marolda was advised by Mr. Clark that there are two solutions for handling the filling of the pool: for the owner to fill out a retroactive permit to fill the pool, or to restore the vernal pool to its natural state. Mr. Clark was aware there is an application to develop this property; however, an application does not give permission to fill a pool vernal or any wetland. Mr. Marolda was advised that Mr. Clark should have a determination by end July. Other environmental issues are also being researched.

Mr. Brian Scarpulla shared photos of the pond and a map showing the location of the vernal pool and markers listing vegetation and animals. Mr. Mullen again stated his concern about Vernal Pool 1810 and reported an email had been sent to the applicant's attorney on January 26, 2020 requesting information about the pool not being listed on their report. To date Mr. Mullen has not received a response to his e-mail, and stated he would follow up with the attorney.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Preserve Management

Mask Up Campaign – Mr. Mullen shared with the members the Mask Up Campaign, a DEP initiative encouraging residents and visitors to wear masks in the parks and on walking trails. Signs will be placed at the entrances to the walking trails and parks. He reported Parks, Board of Health and the EC will assist in posting the signs.

Trail Maintenance – Mr Mullen reported he attended July 8th Parks meeting. Discussions included responsibilities and maintenance of the parks and open space. Mr. Mullen suggested coordinating efforts between the two commissions. Ms. O'Grady reported Parks Commissioners are assigned to different areas and periodically walk their areas to report any maintenance needed. She stated she suggested to the Parks members that they carry clippers when they walk, and stated some members are more comfortable working the trail while others just report issues. Mr. Mullen stated it would also be helpful if members carried a trash bag to clean the trail as they walk. Mr. Mullen and Ms. O'Grady agreed it is up to the EC and Parks to report to DPW any maintenance issues. Mr. Mullen stated at some point a list will be created of what to do and who will handle so efforts will not be duplicated.

Ms. O'Grady requested going forward the Parks Commission be added to the monthly agenda so information can be regularly shared with the EC. She reported that Parks is researching treatments/solutions to the poison ivy in Heritage Park and also on the bike trail in Village Park.

Spotted Lanternfly – Mr. Mullen reported an infestation of spotted lanternfly in a neighbor's yard. Members discussed the lanternfly and the lack of information on how to eradicate them. Mr. Mullen stated insecticides are not encouraged because they could harm honey bees. The spotted lanternfly is drawn to the Tree of Heaven, which is an invasive species, and stated he learned today that incorrectly removing the Tree of Heaven encourages its growth. The spotted lanternfly has destroyed vineyards and fruit orchards in Pennsylvania. Mr. Mullen stated there is information available on the spotted lanternfly; however, the information falls short of actually stating how to eliminate them. He suggested members do research on the lanternfly for future discussion. Ms. Till offered to call The Watershed, and Mr. Mullen stated he will be the collector of all info, which could then be presented to the Township Committee.

Kudzu – Mr. Mullen received a call from a Shade Tree member concerning the kudzu vine covering trees near Farmstead Road near the Pin Oaks Trail. He reported kudzu was also spotted on the bike trail in Village Park. Ms. Jackie Johnson, Shade Tree member, reported the kudzu on trees near Four Seasons. She stated the kudzu grows a foot a day. Members discussed ownership of the property, and Mr. Brendan Hanson, Parks member, shared with the members a map identifying the owners. Mr. Hanson stated he will share the map link with members. Ms. Johnson stated she will research the kudzu. Mr. Mullen invited all members to research methods on how to combat the kudzu and he will compile the info.

Concerning the spotted lanternfly, Ms. Johnson stated she is a Rutgers master gardener, and they suggest scraping and destroying the egg masses. She reported the lanternfly does not fly far; it mostly hops so it is easy to smack down. She stated Penn State is a good source of

information because the lanternfly originated there. Ms. Johnson will share the spotted lanternfly information with Shade Tree members and will also do further research on the kudzu.

#### Sustainable Jersey

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

#### **APPLICATIONS**

There were no additional applications this evening.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Lorraine Morris, Halsey Reed Road, thanked the EC for their concerns and efforts assisting the Hamlet residents with environmental issues surrounding the proposed Cranbury Station, LLC application.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

With no further business, Mr. Mullen requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Mr. Mildenberg, seconded by Ms. Till, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 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 July 20, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 22nd day of September, 2020.

Jean Golisano

Jean Golisano

Environmental Commission Secretary