

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**September 21, 2020**

**TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission was held on September 21, 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.

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

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Michael Ferrante, Township Committeeman and EC Liaison  
Sally O'Grady, EC Chair

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the July 20, 2020 meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Ms. Till, seconded by Mr. Mildenberg, the Minutes were approved by all members present, with the exception of Dr. Mathers and Dr. Kohut, who abstained.

**REPORTS**

Township Committee – Mr. Michael Ferrante, TC Liaison, reported the dredging project should start soon, and Brainerd Lake should be lowered by November 1<sup>st</sup>. He reported information has been posted on the website and e-mail blasted. Ms. Golisano reported letters were also sent to residents within 200 feet of the Lake, as well as to residents on Maplewood Avenue and Main Street between Old Trenton Road and Plainsboro Road.

Mr. Ferrante reported the Economic Development Advisory Committee will present at the September 28<sup>th</sup> Township Committee meeting to share the results of the survey and to discuss their goals and vision.

Mr. Ferrante reported the Township is currently without a public library. At the request of the School, the Library moved out of its space on August 15<sup>th</sup> and is currently looking for space in the village. Options being considered include Odd Fellows Hall or the rental of a trailer to be placed on Park Place West.

Planning Board – Mr. Gallagher reported Prologis made a presentation before the Planning Board at the last meeting and a number of questions were raised. Mr. Gallagher stated some employee parking spaces will be eliminated and 14 new truck spaces will be added. He explained there is a new tenant and different use for the building.

Mr. Gallagher reported the Cranbury Public Library is on the next Planning Board Agenda to discuss temporary housing of the Library. Mr. Ferrante explained Cranbury Township has eight parking spaces on the Cranbury Housing Associates property. The issue has to go before the Planning Board for the Township to use the property.

Mr. Gallagher reported the final resolution on the Toll Brothers property should be finalized and voted on at the next meeting. Issues of concern to the Environmental Commission had been addressed.

Zoning Committee – Mr. Mullen reported at the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting a recap was done on village parking and signage. The September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting concentrated on stormwater management. Mr. Mullen stated Cranbury will have to submit an updated stormwater management plan by March 2, 2021 (one year to the day the DEP passed their rule). He stated there is enough time to introduce an updated ordinance to the Township Committee to have in place before March. Mr. Mullen stated the alternative would be to use the DEP's model stormwater ordinance; however, there are items the EC would like added to the model ordinance.

Mr. Mullen reported Mr. David Nissen, a new member on the Zoning Board, has joined the Zoning Committee.

Parks Commission – Ms. Sally O'Grady, Chair of the Parks Commission, reported that the northwest corner of Heritage Park is overrun with poison ivy and Parks is researching ways to eradicate it. She reported pickle ball is being played on the tennis court and permission has been received from the Recreation Commission to chalk pickle ball lines on the tennis court. Recreation is researching the cost to paint pickle ball lines on the court.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Reinhardt Trail Maintenance and PHS Community Service – Mr. Mullen reported a group of Princeton High School students, led by James Novak, worked on the Reinhardt Trail to earn community service hours. Mr. Mullen stated Reinhardt was in bad shape due to high winds, and he and the seven students worked four hours doing trail maintenance. Mr. Mullen stated the day was successful and he signed off on the students' service hours. He stated there were a few huge trees down, which he and his wife cleared. He stated the trail maintenance was scheduled around the hunting days. Mr. Mullen stated someone has done a very good job maintaining the blue trail, and encouraged members and residents to bring a bag for trash when hiking.

Trails – The condition of the trails was discussed. Pin Oaks Trail has a lot of poison ivy. Mr. Mullen will address. Brook Trail was overgrown; however, Ms. O'Grady stated it has been

addressed. The Unami Trail is used a lot and was in good shape. Ms. O'Grady stated it was a very hot summer, and the trails will be used more now in the cooler weather.

Board of Health – Mr. Mullen reported the Board of Health would like to offer activities via Zoom meetings during the pandemic. He stated he would be interested in speaking about the walking trails in the Township.

Spotted Lanternfly – Members discussed the spotted lanternfly and eradicating the Tree of Heaven, which attracts the insect. Various websites offering information were shared, including Rutgers and Penn State. Mr. Mullen stated this item can be removed from the agenda in the future.

Kudzu – The kudzu plant discussed at the last meeting had been incorrectly identified; it is actually grape ivy vines. This item can also be removed from the agenda in the future.

Mask Up Campaign – Mr. Mullen reported hearing nothing more about the campaign. Ms. Golisano reported the Board of Health and Parks had not received any additional information on the Mask Up Campaign either.

#### Sustainable Jersey

Sustainable Jersey Energy Audit – Ms. Till gave a brief overview of the energy audit she conducting. She stated she reviewed the past year's utility bills from PSEG and Direct Energy for Township buildings including Town Hall, two fire houses, police station and Public Works buildings. Also included were several pump stations, park lighting and township lighting. The age of the building and the number of people using the facility were taken into consideration when looking at energy usage. The next step of the audit focuses on how to reduce energy usage thus reducing costs. Ms. Till shared the audit with Ms. Spann and Dr. Rogers, members of the Township Committee for their feedback. She stated the audit is almost complete and will be submitted to Sustainable Jersey for ten points to the Township's Sustainable goals. To earn the next ten points, Ms. Till explained a database should be created to constantly update the information. She stated the challenge is that information from two companies has to be collected. If only one company provided service, they could provide ongoing information to the Township. Working with data from two companies is very cumbersome. The members all thanked Ms. Till for all of her hard work on this time-consuming task.

Community Garden – A Four Seasons resident inquired about the Township starting a community garden. It was suggested a survey be conducted to see what residents would be interested in a community garden. After some discussion about location, securing the site, water access and who would actually participate in the garden, it was suggested if specifically, Four Season residents wanted a garden, it could be placed in that development by the HOA for their residents.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Economic Development Advisory Committee – Mr. Mullen reported he attended an outdoors meeting of the newly-formed EDAC, a committee recently formed by Mayor Scott to make Cranbury a more vibrant community. The original scope of the committee was to deal more

with businesses in the Township; however, Mr. Mullen stated other topics were covered: farmers market, Cranstock, and a community garden, and perhaps EDAC can conduct a survey to see what appeals to residents.

Stormwater Management Ordinance – Mr. Mullen sent to members an e-mail with stormwater management ordinance information. He stated there is some time, and requested members review the material and be ready to discuss at the next meeting. The Zoning Committee will try to introduce the Ordinance in January. Cranbury's current stormwater management ordinance can be found in the Township Code Land Use - Chapter 150-61. Dr. Krasting reported he struggled with what Cranbury would want to add to the Ordinance to go above and beyond. Mr. Mullen stated any added enhancements would have to be justified. Dr. Krasting reported the Watershed Ordinance includes a permit and fee structure and inquired if EC members would want to include that. It was discussed that inspections would ensure that stormwater maintenance guidelines are adhered to. Mr. Mildenberg stated inspections put a lot of onus on homeowners doing minor changes. Mr. Gallagher suggested having a review of basins, which would raise the level of responsibility that basins are maintained. There was additional discussion about using the DEP model ordinance or enhanced Watershed model. Mr. Mullen stated justification must be made for any enhancements made to the ordinance. The Stormwater Management Ordinance will be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting.

#### **APPLICATION**

Cranbury Station, LLC – Residents near the site were concerned a vernal pool had been filled in and one resident filed a complaint with the DEP. The Township Engineer, Tom Decker, has been informed and can take action if he sees there is an issue. The application has not gone before the Planning Board yet. If there are conflicts in reports, Mr. Gallagher stated it is up to the professionals to sort it out.

#### **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 Mr. Gallagher, seconded by Dr. Kohut, 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 September 21, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 20th day of October, 2020.

Jean Golisano

Jean Golisano

Environmental Commission Secretary