

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

November 16, 2020

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission was held on November 16, 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 7:10 p.m., and Jean Golisano acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Michael Ferrante, Township Committeeman and EC Liaison
Sally O'Grady, Parks Chair
Brendan Hanson, Parks Member

MINUTES

The Minutes of the October 19, 2020 meeting were reviewed and an edit was made. On a motion by Ms. Till, seconded by Mr. Mildenberg, the amended Minutes were approved by all members present.

REPORTS

Township Committee – Mr. Michael Ferrante, TC Liaison, reported the Brainerd Lake Dredging Project had to be stopped due to a deficiency in the specs and that the dewatering of the Lake would not be done in time. He stated the Township hopes for a successful dredging of the Lake in 2021.

Mr. Ferrante reported today the Township learned the Cranbury Public Library won the \$2.5 million matching funds grant from the State and construction can start soon on the new Library. Mr. Ferrante explained the grant was approved by both Houses today and should be signed by the Governor in the next few days. The EC will be engaged to assist with the design of the rain

garden. Ms. Vaccaro inquired if EV charging spaces are being considered, and Mr. Ferrante stated he would see what he could do. Ms. Vaccaro reported grants are available to offset the costs of the charging stations, and she would be willing to assist as needed. She stated where there are constraints due to the size of the parking lot, it helps that one EV space equals two regular parking spaces. Mr. Ferrante stated the 20-space lot will be a municipal lot. Mr. Mullen updating Cranbury's ordinances to make the Township more "EV friendly" will be a high priority item in 2021 for the Zoning Committee.

Planning Board – Mr. Gallagher was not available to provide a report this evening.

Parks Commission – Mr. Mullen changed the order of the agenda and invited the Parks Commission members to speak. Ms. O'Grady, Chair of Parks, reported the Woman's Club of Cranbury will provide lights and red bows to decorate a tree in Heritage Park. The lighted tree is near the Heritage Park fountain and will be visible from Old Trenton Road and South Main Street. Ms. O'Grady introduced Parks Member, Brendan Hanson, who shared with EC members a map depicting all Township buildings, parks and open spaces. He stated he added only labels for the Township parks and open spaces, not municipal-owned land. After reviewing the map, EC members inquired if this map could be synergized with the interactive map already posted on the web and if wetlands could also be posted. Mr. Hanson stated adding wetlands would be very labor intensive. Mr. Mullen stated the Township's Environmental Resource Inventory, required by Statute, lists all of the Township's open spaces and wetlands. Mr. Hanson stated the map can be accessed on phones by Google Maps or the Township website. Mr. Mullen stated the map was very impressive, and EC members thanked Mr. Hanson for all of his work on the map.

Zoning Committee – Mr. Mullen reported at the last EC meeting, members unanimously agreed to six enhanced recommendations to the Stormwater Maintenance Ordinance. Mr. Mullen stated the Zoning Committee met on October 20th and 27th and will meet again tomorrow to further discuss the Ordinance. Below are the recommended EC strategies discussed followed by Zoning Committee's recommendations in italics:

1. Reinstate the Nonstructural Strategies - The DEP's new rules require developers to incorporate "green infrastructure" into their stormwater management plan but removed the requirement to use "nonstructural strategies." These two stormwater management techniques are not mutually exclusive. Both techniques can and should be used. ***This enhancement was accepted by the Zoning Committee and will be included in the Ordinance.***
2. Remove the concept of "Regulated Motor Vehicle Surface" – Rather than require water quality testing (and TSS removal) for stormwater runoff from ***all*** impervious surfaces, the new DEP rules require this be done only for "regulated motor vehicle surfaces." The runoff from other impervious surfaces (rooftops, sidewalks, patios, concrete pads, etc.) will no longer have this requirement. ***The Committee decided this recommendation could be detrimental because roof runoff could be clean and it would be added to dirty runoff being tested. Instead, it was decided to exclude only roof runoff from water quality testing.***
3. Implement Total Maximum Daily Load - TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed to enter a waterbody while still permitting that waterbody to meet the water quality standards set for that particular pollutant. Per federal law, TMDLs must be developed for all impaired waters in the state. A TMDL

exists for the Raritan River Basin designed to improve water quality by lowering the amount of total suspended solids (TSS). This TMDL applies to all water bodies in Cranbury since they ultimately drain into the Millstone River. As such, the EC recommends that if stormwater runoff from any project site drains, directly or indirectly, into a water with a TMDL for TSS, then the required TSS reduction from the site shall be increased to be consistent with the reductions set forth in the TMDL. ***It was decided not to pursue this at this time because agreement could not be reached and more time was needed to answer the many questions. It will be explored more fully in 2021.***

4. Address Redevelopment - The Watershed recommends adding a new project type called Redevelopment, defined as any activity on an already developed site that results in the creation, addition, or replacement of impervious surface area. Currently there is nothing in Cranbury's code that compels pre-existing developments to meet current stormwater management requirements. This new concept requires any redevelopment site plan needing board approval to bring stormwater management plans up to current code. ***This enhancement was accepted by the Zoning Committee and will be included in the Ordinance.***
5. Reduce Triggers for Major Projects - Current DEP rules trigger the creation of stormwater management for any project which disturbs one or more acres of land or creates one-quarter acre (10,890 square feet) or more of impervious surface. The EC recommends a reduction of these triggers to a disturbance of one-half acre or more of land or the creation of 5,000 square feet or more of impervious surface. ***It was decided not to pursue this at this time due to the potential impact this could have on residential projects. It will be explored more fully in 2021.***
6. Onsite Retention of Stormwater - The EC recommends a requirement that the volume of water from the "water quality design storm" (1.25" in 2 hours) be retained onsite. ***Mr. Tom Decker, Township Engineer, questioned whether to do this at this time or wait. New developments would follow the ordinance; however, others would have to follow to the maximum extent possible or be grandfathered in. It would be impractical and expensive for some properties, which would have to retrofit their buildings to meet requirements of the ordinance. This will be discussed further at the November 17th Zoning Committee meeting.***

MISCELLANEOUS

Economic Development Advisory Commission Winter Newsletter – Dr. Krasting reported the EDAC is preparing a winter/holiday campaign to encourage residents to shop local, to give back to our community, and to celebrate safely at home this season. He requested submissions from the Parks Commission and EC for the brochure. Dr. Krasting stated there is a short deadline. Members suggested information about walking trails, geo caching and ways to be sustainable in the New Year.

OLD BUSINESS

Sustainable Jersey – Ms. Till had nothing to report this evening. Initiatives will be addressed in 2021. Ms. Vaccaro reported the Cranbury School achieved Bronze certification status, stating it was very close to almost achieving Silver.

Preserve Management – Ms. O’Grady reported she walked the Unami Wood Trail and it is in good shape. Mr. Mullen stated last month he and his wife marked the Reinhardt Trails with color-coded metal markers.

APPLICATIONS

There were no applications this evening.

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 Ms. Till, seconded by Mr. Mildenberg, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 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 November 16, 2020.

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

Jean Golisano

Jean Golisano

Environmental Commission Secretary