

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

June 21, 2021

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission was held on Monday, June 21, 2021 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 January 8, 2021 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.

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, John Krasting, Paul Mullen, Michele Till and Theresa Vaccaro were present. Jason Mildenberg was excused, and Becky Mathers Lowery was absent.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Spann, Township Committee Liaison
Sally O'Grady, Parks Chair
Brendan Hanson, Parks Member

MINUTES

The Minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Dr. Kohut, seconded Ms. Vaccaro, the April Minutes were approved by all members present. The Minutes of the May 17, 2021 meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Ms. Vaccaro, seconded by Ms. Till, the May Minutes were approved by all members present.

REPORTS

Liaison Report – Ms. Spann reported a bill on electric vehicles is being introduced in the Legislature, and unlike other recent ordinances, has mandated requirements. Ms. Spann reported she had discussions with the League of Municipalities attorney and Township attorney concerning the ordinance.

Zoning Committee – Mr. Mullen reported minor wording in the Stormwater Ordinance had to be amended as required by the County and to be in agreement with the existing Sump Pump Ordinance. The Ordinance was introduced on June 14th, will be reviewed by the Planning Board at its July 1st meeting and then have second reading/public comment at the July 12th Township Committee meeting.

Planning Board – Mr. Gallagher reported four applications were reviewed at the June 2nd Planning Board meeting. Three (fence and two generators) were approved. The fourth application is being reviewed by legal.

Parks Commission – Ms. Sally O'Grady, Parks Commission Chair, reported a Mayor's Wellness program was conducted via Zoom and a video was shown about the four preserves in Cranbury. Mr. Brendan Hanson, Parks' Member, also gave a presentation on the interactive map he created. The video of the descriptions of the four preserves is posted on the Township website. Guided hikes of the preserves were conducted on June 12th. Participants enjoyed the hikes, and suggestions were made to make the hikes an annual event.

Ms. O'Grady reported Mr. Hanson will be attending future EC meetings as the Parks representative.

Ms. O'Grady reported Public Works will clear the northwest corner of Heritage Park and plant grass. Flowering shrubs will be planted in memory of Mr. Tom Weidner, long-time Parks' Member and former Chair.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management – There were no reports.

Sustainable Jersey – Ms. Till reported the energy audit was completed and submitted. She reported many people worked to pull the information together, and especially thanked Ms. Sonya Harrison in the Finance Department for entering data. Ms. Harrison will continue to input energy data from the monthly energy bills. Ms. Till stated she hoped enough of the scope requirements were covered to receive the full 20 points towards Silver status. Ms. Till stated the submission will be important for considering future energy conservation and improvements.

Ms. Vaccaro reported Cranbury School has submitted to Sustainable Jersey its application for Silver, and status should be known in August.

Spotted Lanternfly – Mr. Mullen reported spotted lanternfly nymphs have emerged. Alerts have been posted on the website to educate residents. Treatments to eradicate the spotted lanternfly and Tree of Heaven were discussed. Mr. Mullen will prepare another alert for the website.

Alfred Meiss Award – Dr. Mathers presented the Alfred Meiss Award to graduating eighth grader, Tyler Cenci. Tyler Cenci has participated in numerous stream cleanups, earned Boy Scout merit badges for engaging in environmental classes, made a video promoting Cranbury Township's four preserves, and participated in the world's biggest tree planting fundraiser called #teamtrees.

NEW BUSINESS

Cranbury Day – Members discussed activities for Cranbury Day. Information on the spotted lanternfly will be made available, and members discussed possibly using QR codes and laptops to access/display information rather than paper. Mr. Mullen suggested focusing on plastic usage, and Ms. Till suggested having a sustainable slant to the theme by focusing on ways to minimize plastic by using plastic alternatives.

Dr. Kohut offered his assistance to obtain information from a colleague at Rutgers who is raising awareness on why a change in behavior is necessary to improve microplastics in the Watershed. Surveys are also being conducted on the Raritan Bay. Dr. Krasting offered to help, stating some plastics cannot be eliminated, but can be repurposed. Ms. Spann suggested reusable lunch bags and Ms. O'Grady suggested Earthwise vegetable bags. Mr. Mullen stated there are funds in the education budget that can be applied toward purchases of items for Cranbury Day. Members agreed not to use the "Mystery Box" this year due to the pandemic. Mr. Mullen requested the members bring ideas for Cranbury Day to the July meeting.

APPLICATION

Mr. Mullen reported a Freshwater Wetlands Application was received for 222 Dey Road. Mr. Mullen will follow up with Ms. Marabello, Township Administrator, concerning the previous site plan for this property.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Mullen reported Ms. Lynn Slavin resigned from the EC effective today due to work commitments. For the record, Mr. Mullen thanked Ms. Slavin for her time and stated she would be welcome back in the future if her time allowed. Ms. Spann suggested Mr. Mullen reach out to the Municipal Clerk to inquire about other applicants interested in the EC.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

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. Gallagher, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 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 three (3) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on June 21, 2021.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 20st day of July, 2021.

Jean Golisano

Environmental Commission Secretary