

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

September 20, 2021

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission was held on Monday, September 20, 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, Mohan Gawande, John Krasting, Jason Mildenberg, Paul Mullen, and Theresa Vaccaro were present. Becky Mathers Lowery joined at 7:30 p.m. Josh Kohut and Michele Till were excused.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Mike Pisauero, Esq., The Watershed Institute
Dr. Barbara Rogers, Deputy Mayor
Mr. Brendan Hanson, Parks Co-Chair

MINUTES

Mr. Mullen inquired if there were any edits or changes for the Minutes. On a motion by Ms. Vaccaro, seconded Mr. Mildenberg, the July Minutes were approved by all members present, with the exception of Mr. Gallagher who abstained.

REPORTS

Liaison Report – There was no Liaison Report this evening.

Planning Board – Mr. Gallagher reported two applications (billboard sign and solar panels/auto canopy) were reviewed and approved.

DRC Report - Mr. Mildenberg reported the DRC reviewed an application for a self-storage facility proposed for South Main Street on the east side of Route 130. Mr. Gallagher confirmed an environmental statement was included with the application. The DRC provided comments to the applicant who will review and circle back to the DRC.

Zoning Committee – Mr. Mullen reported the Committee is meeting every two weeks and that the State just released a model EV Ordinance. He reported the model ordinance is not as aggressive as the Zoning Committee would like, and per the State Ordinance, municipalities may not alter or make the local ordinances more aggressive than the State's. Mr. Mullen stated he would e-mail the model ordinance to the members. The Zoning Committee did not have time to address wind and solar ordinances this year but will make those a goal for next year.

Parks Commission – Mr. Brendan Hanson provided an update from the September Parks meeting, including Parks researching grants for the walking trail and purchasing water fountain/refillable bottle station for the parks.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management – Mr. Mullen reported a large dangerous tree came down in Reinhardt Preserve and is blocking the yellow trail. A section of the trunk will have to be cut so the trail will be passable.

Sustainable Jersey – Ms. Vaccaro reported the Cranbury School has been certified Silver status. Members congratulated Ms. Vaccaro on the achievement. Dr. Rogers reported she, Ms. Till and Ms. Vaccaro have been working on obtaining Silver status for the Township.

Spotted Lanternfly – Mr. Mullen reported that, in conjunction with the Shade Tree Commission, SavATree was contracted to apply a systemic pesticide called dinotefuran to all large Tree of Heaven in Village Park. If it works as advertised, this will kill a large portion of the Spotted Lanternfly that subsequently feed on these trees for the next several months. Mr. Mullen also reported that he met with Ashley Monforte of the NJ Department of Agriculture on August 19 to observe and discuss her team's application of dinotefuran to the Tree of Heaven in the Volkswagen property at 47 Station Road. The NJDOA asked Cranbury for permission to treat this property because it is within one of NJ's Foreign Trade Zones and an area of high truck traffic.

NEW BUSINESS

Stormwater Management Presentation – Mr. Mike Pisauo, Esq., Policy Director of the Watershed Institute, gave a presentation on stormwater management. Mr. Mullen reported at Mr. Pisauo's request, he and Mr. Pisauo inspected the areas prone to flood to obtain a better understanding of Cranbury's recent flooding. Mr. Pisauo explained the Clean Stormwater and Flood Reduction Act was signed by Governor Murphy in 2019. The Act authorizes, but does not require, the establishment of stormwater utilities which provides for a dedicated funding source to be used only for stormwater management. The Act amends existing statutes to allow entities to adopt a resolution or an ordinance to establish a Stormwater Utility, which would empower a municipality to charge and collect reasonable fees to recover the stormwater utility's costs for stormwater management.

Mr. Pisauro stated that stormwater management systems prior to the 1980's were not regulated by the State. Discussion about the Act included getting existing developments up to current standards and providing grants to update and retrofit systems. Mr. Pisauro reported municipalities are legally required to maintain stormwater systems. There was discussion about charging residents fees in Cranbury if other surrounding municipalities are not managing their stormwater. Members discussed the necessity of regional stormwater management, and Mr. Pisauro will give contact information for Princeton's committee to Mr. Mullen. Dr. Rogers reported at the Township Committee meeting the Township Engineer, Tom Decker, gave a great presentation on the recent flooding and the impact of each municipality's stormwater on its neighboring municipalities. Stormwater utilities are needed to correct stormwater problems. Mr. Pisauro recommended starting by having discussions concerning stormwater management issues, solutions and associated costs. Mr. Mullen thanked Mr. Pisauro for his presentation. Dr. Rogers thanked Mr. Pisauro for the Watershed's partnership with municipalities.

APPLICATIONS

There was no discussion on applications.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Golisano thanked the members for returning the signature sheets acknowledging receipt of the Employee/Board Member Handbook. She reported the next EC meeting will be on Monday, October 18th and the budget, which is due to the Administrator on October 22nd, will be on that Agenda for discussion.

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. Lowery, seconded by Ms. Vaccaro, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 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 September 20, 2021.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 2nd day of November, 2021.

Jean Golisano
Secretary
Environmental Commission