

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

July 15, 2019

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission was held in Town Hall, 23A North Main Street, Cranbury, N.J., on Monday, July 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

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 20, 2018, 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, Dr. Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., and Jean Golisano acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Gallagher, Josh Kohut, Paul Mullen, Barbara Rogers, and Michele Till were present. Becky Lowery, Jason Mildenberg and Theresa Vaccaro were excused. Mona Bhatia was absent

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sally O'Grady – Parks Commission

MINUTES

The Minutes of the June 17, 2019 meeting were reviewed and amended. On a motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mr. Gallagher, the amended minutes were approved by all members present.

OLD BUSINESS

2019 Goals and Year End Report

2019 Goals – The members reviewed the 2019 Goals and made a few minor revisions. On a motion by Mr. Gallagher, seconded by Mr. Mullen, and approved by all members present, the motion to accept the 2019 Goals as amended was passed.

2018 Year End Report – The 2018 Year End Report was reviewed and edits were made. On a motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Dr. Kohut, and approved by all members present, the motion to accept the 2018 Year End Report as amended was passed.

Preserve Management

Cranbury Brook Preserve – Ms. O'Grady, Parks Commission, reported two benches in the Preserve are in disrepair. Ms. Till volunteered to look at the benches and take pictures for EC members.

Pin Oaks Preserves – Dr. Rogers reported the grass on the trail is high and the path needs to be mowed. She will ask Public Works to mow. She reported she had asked Public Works to add gravel to the Pin Oaks parking area. Mr. Mullen stated he will check Pin Oaks tomorrow.

Heritage Park – Ms. O'Grady reported at the EC's recommendation the Parks Commission had planted Black-Eyed Susans last year by the entrance signs at Heritage Park, Millstone Park and Village Park. She stated the flowers died and did not come back this year. EC members suggested planting cone flowers or bee balm instead.

Pollinator Garden - Dr. Rogers reported she and Ms. Bhatia mulched and weeded the Pollinator Garden, and it looks very good.

Unami Woods – There was discussion about continuing the path from Unami Woods to the Fire House path. Mr. Mullen will look at the easement on the tax map, and Ms. O'Grady will speak with residents about extending the path at this Friday's Porch Fest.

Sustainable Jersey 2019 Recertification - Dr. Rogers reported Sustainable Jersey sent comments back on the recertification application. Certain action items need additional information and editing. With the additional work, Cranbury should be recertified during the next round of application review. Work on the Actions Items must be completed and submitted by September. Actions items submitted include:

- Sustainable Land Use Pledge
- Community Paper Shredding Day
- Recycling Depot
- Reusable Bag Education Program
- Create Green Team
- Farmland Preservation Plans
- Environmental Commission
- Environmental Commission Site Plan Review
- Tree Hazard Inventory
- Community Education and Outreach
- Innovative Community Project 1
- Make Your Town Electric Vehicle Friendly
- Establish a Creative Team
- Buy Local Campaign
- Municipal Communications Strategy
- Tree Planting Programs
- Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities
- Grass – Cut It & Leave It
- Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal
- Environmental Resource Inventory
- Community Forestry Plan
- Rain Garden
- Smoke Free Public Places
- Green Building and Sustainability Element
- Establish a Creative Team

The EC will continue its work to promote Cranbury as a Sustainable Jersey township. The EC will continue to work with the Cranbury School Wellness and Sustainability Council to help

educate and involve students in promoting water quality and recycling initiatives in the school.

A student liaison from Cranbury School will be invited and included at the monthly meetings for communication and assistance of the School's participation with Terracycle and other activities.

Brainerd Lake Dredging – No update to report on the project at this time as a meeting has not yet been held. Mr. Gallagher and Dr. Kohut agreed to participate in future Lake dredging discussions.

NEW BUSINESS

Master Plan Update - Dr. Kohut stated he reviewed Chapters 6 and 13 (Green Building, Sustainability Plans and Conservation Elements). Dr. Rogers stated she had provided updates, including Sustainable Jersey Items, to the Master Plan Re-Exam Subcommittee. The Township passed a Riparian Zone Ordinance instead of the Stream Corridor Plan. Ms. Till will follow up to see if water sampling is done in the Township. She stated she has some updates for the Master Plan, which Dr. Rogers requested be sent to her within the week.

"No Smoking/No Vaping in Parks" Signs – The Members discussed where in the parks the "No Smoking/No Vaping" signs should be posted. Dr. Rogers reported "No Smoking/No Vaping" signs were received from Tobacco Free for a Healthy New Jersey. Ms. O'Grady reported the signs are already posted on existing signs in Village, Heritage, and Millstone Parks. The Members agreed the signs should also be posted on existing signs in the other parks. For Reinhardt, Mr. Mullen suggested staying away from the main sign, and Dr. Rogers suggested placing the sign under the existing Open Space Sign. For Unami Woods, Dr. Rogers suggested placing the sign on the Green Acres sign to the left of the entrance of Unami Woods. Ms. O'Grady stated the overgrown greenery near that sign would have to be trimmed back to see the sign, or perhaps the sign should be relocated for better visibility. For Pin Oaks, it was suggested placing the sign on the current No Parking sign.

Deer Management Plan - There was discussion about the adopted Deer Management Plan. Dr. Rogers reported the Ordinance passed, and bow hunting will be allowed in the Hagerty Preserve, Fisher Property, Frosztega Property, the Updike Property and the Reinhardt Preserve. Dr. Rogers explained the Ordinance is a broad stroke, and the Township will be putting additional rules and regulations into place. There will be a map of each area where hunters can and cannot hunt as well as a calendar of hunting dates. Dr. Rogers prepared a document of environmental issues for the EC members to discuss as recommendations for the Township Committee to consider when drafting the rules and regulations. Concerns were raised about the safety of walking trails during hunting season and damage to trees from tree stands. Dr. Kohut stated the Ordinance that was adopted is a framework, and the Township will draft additional rules. Dr. Rogers stated rules will be revisited in the future and changes made as necessary. There was discussion about the signage for the five properties to inform hikers and identify property boundaries. Mr. Mullen voiced his concern about the safety of hikers during the hunting season. He suggested educating the public at Cranbury Day about the deer management program and the five properties where hunting is allowed. Dr. Rogers stressed the Township will formulate the rules and regulations and stated the EC recommendations are focusing only on the environmental issues and public safety. Mr. Mullen stated he is not against the deer management program, and feels three properties are appropriate for hunting (Updike, Fischer and Frosztega); however, he feels hunting should not be permitted in the Reinhardt and Hagerty Preserves. On a motion by Mr. Gallagher, seconded by Dr. Kohut, the EC recommendations

were approved for submission to the Township Committee and the Township Administrator. All members in attendance agreed to the motion, with the exception of Mr. Mullen, who abstained.

APPLICATIONS

Three applications were reviewed. One application was for a sign on the Turnpike, which was approved at the last Planning Board Meeting. The second application, Rocket Pharma, 9 Cedar Brook Drive, was heard at the Planning Board. Since there were technical questions, the Board requested Rocket to return with their engineer to provide additional information. The third application for two large warehouses to be located on South River Road and Route 130 has not been before the Planning Board yet. However, Mr. Gallagher stated the application contains one requested waiver to not use pervious walkways, which could have an environmental impact. Mr. Gallagher suggested anyone on the EC with an interest could attend the Planning Board as an individual to comment.

Parks Commission Update

Ms. Sally O'Grady reported she will be obtaining quotes for a walking path in Village Park. Mr. Gallagher and Dr. Rogers suggested a change to the proposed path by having the path go through the bike path. Ms. O'Grady stated the path as proposed was visible and Parks preferred the path not go into the trees. She added the path is also full of poison ivy. There was discussion about connecting the path from the new development behind park to the walking path. Ms. O'Grady reported she will walk the proposed path with contractors and will be obtaining quotes for a paved path or pea gravel path from three vendors. She will present the quotes at the September Parks Commission meeting.

Ms. O'Grady reported there will be a dedication of new playground equipment on Wednesday, July 17th at Heritage Park. The new swing, musical instrument and park bench was donated by the D'Aria Family in memory of their daughter, Giuliana.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, Dr. Rogers requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Mr. Gallagher, seconded by Mr. Mullen, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 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 15, 2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 17th day of September, 2019.

Jean Golisano

Jean Golisano
Environmental Commission Secretary