

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

May 16, 2022

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission was held on Monday, May 16, 2022 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 5, 2022 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. Township website was previously updated with remote access information on April 24, 2020 and updated on June 18, 2020.

Ms. Golisano read into record the following statement:

**Cranbury Township
Statement on Public Comment during Remote Meeting**

The public may electronically submit questions or comments to jgolisano@cranbury-nj.com or in written letter form via mail to Cranbury Township Town Hall no later than 3:00 p.m. the day of the scheduled Committee Meeting. Name, address and phone or email must be included. Timely submitted questions or public comment shall be read aloud and addressed during the public meeting. Duplicate written comments may be summarized and noted for the record in a consistent manner.

To eliminate background noise so that all meeting participants may hear, please mute your microphone and remain in listening mode only. The Board Secretary will place all remote attendees on this platform on mute as well and will manage the order of the remote participant's comments. During public comment period(s), the Board Secretary will make an announcement that any remote participant seeking to comment must signify their intent by using the "raise hand" feature on Zoom. The Board Secretary will then unmute each participant individually when it is their designated time to speak. If you do not have a question or comment, please keep your microphone muted. Please unmute yourself only at the direction of the Board Secretary. All remote users must state their name and address at the beginning of his/her public comment. Each speaker will have three (3) minutes to comment.

Should a member of the public using the Zoom platform become disruptive, that individual will be kept on mute and receive a warning that continued disruption may result in their being prevented from speaking or removed from the meeting entirely. If time permits, the disruptive individual shall be allowed to speak after all other members of the public have been given the opportunity to speak. The Commission will facilitate a dialogue with all commenters to the extent permitted by Zoom technology

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Mr. Paul 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, Becky Mathers. Jason Mildenberg, Paul Mullen, and Theresa Vaccaro were present. Michael Cargill was excused and Mohan Gawande was absent.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Matt Scott, Township Committee Liaison
Mr. Brendan Hanson, Parks Commission
Mr. Michael Pisauro, The Watershed.

MINUTES

Mr. Mullen inquired if there were any edits or changes to the April 18th Minutes. On a motion by Mr. Mildenberg, seconded by Dr. Kohut, the April 18th Minutes were approved by Dr. Kohut and Dr. Mathers and Mr. Mildenberg. Mr. Gallagher, Dr. Krasting, Mr. Mullen and Ms. Vaccaro abstained.

REPORTS

Township Committee Liaison Report – Mr. Scott reported DEP and Wildlife and Game are not requiring the Lake be restocked so the contractor is not required to do it. The Township Committee is considering having the Lake restocked. Members agreed having a stocked lake would be healthy for the Lake and to control mosquitos. Types of fish were discussed, and members suggested consulting with The Watershed on how it should be restocked. All EC members supported restocking the Lake.

Planning Board – Mr. Gallagher reported the Jet Star Application was reviewed and the Cranbury Station Road Project was tabled for additional information. Mr. Mullen stated this will be discussed later in the meeting. There was discussion on whether Mr Gallagher can participate in EC discussions on Planning Board applications. Mr. Gallagher stated he would recuse himself so as not to lose his vote at the Planning Board Meeting as happened for a previous application. He stated he needs direction from the attorney on his participation at the EC meetings.

DRC Report – Mr. Mildenberg reported Buy Rite, located on Route 130 and Half Acre Road, discussed a change in zoning to develop a warehouse. There is a pond on the adjacent property that is listed on the NJ DEP Geo Website. Members discussed the site development adhering to Cranbury's Riparian Ordinance. The applicant must go before the Zoning Board to request change of use of the property.

Zoning Committee – There was no report this evening,

Parks Commission – Mr. Brendan Hanson reported the Parks Commission requested the Township Committee consider updating the 2007 Open Space and Recreation Report. The request will be reviewed at next year's budget meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management

Village Park Rain Garden – Due to the heavy equipment from the dredging project, the swale that funnels to the rain garden was filled in. The approximately 40-foot swale takes water from “dirt mountain” and the parking lot. Mr. Mullen reported the contractor was very responsive and reconstructed the swale. Mr. Mullen reported the Township Engineer sent links on the new rules of how a rain garden (plants swale and entryway) is supposed to be maintained.

Update on Cranbury Stream Clean Up – Stream Clean Up was held on April 23rd from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Approximately 82 volunteers assembled at Village Park. Other areas cleaned included Pin Oaks – off the trails and across the street, the trail behind Fire House and the Cranbury Brook Preserves. A total of 392 pounds of trash/recycling was collected.

Sustainable Jersey – Ms. Vaccaro reported the Township is up for recertification. A requirement includes specifying that the Green Team is active and a list of its members be provided, which Ms. Vaccaro reported includes: Environmental Commission Members, Kathy Easton (Shade Tree Commission); Mayors Wellness Team (Laura Zurfluh, Eman El-Badawi, Robin Skeete, Joann Charwin, Mayor Barbara Rogers); Lisa Knierim (Economic Development Advisory Committee) and Sally O'Grady (Parks Commission).

Spotted Lanternfly – Mr. Mullen will prepare information to post on the Township website. Members agreed that the adult spotted lanternfly is easily recognizable; however, information with pictures of the nymphs would be helpful for residents.

Mr. Gallagher left at 7:50 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Cranbury Station Road Planning Board Application– EC members discussed this application to build a warehouse which will be coming back before the Planning Board on May 26th. Members unanimously agreed the following comments be included in a memo to the Planning Board:

1. The Applicant must comply with Cranbury's Riparian Zone Ordinance or receive a variance before proceeding with the application.
2. The pond located in the northern portion of Block 13, Lot 13, falls under the protection of Cranbury's Riparian Zone Ordinance.
3. The Applicant should not be granted a variance to disturb the pond in question, and no new disturbances of its riparian zone should be permitted.
4. The Vernal Pool and the Vernal Pool Habitat should be respected.

Members agreed on not wanting to set a precedent. The vernal pool and the natural habitat are valued and should be left intact.

Dr. Mathers left the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Power Plant in Woodbridge Township – Mr. Mullen informed the members that an environmental group called Food & Water Watch has asked Cranbury Township to adopt a resolution calling on Governor Phil Murphy and the Department of Environmental Protection to oppose the creation of

a proposed fossil fuel plant in the Keasbey section of Woodbridge. Mr. Mullen reported a number of municipalities have already adopted this resolution and that he would recommend the Township Committee to do so as well.

Health and Wellness Fair - The Municipal Alliance will be coordinating the Health and Wellness Fair on May 21st. Maps of the preserve trails and handouts are available for distribution. Dr. Mathers created a scavenger hunt for children. No members present at the meeting were available to work the table.

Alfred Meiss Award – Cranbury School reached out to Dr. Mathers concerning the award. Ms. Golisano will purchase the gift card and will advise the school which EC member will present the award. Dr. Kohut will check his calendar, and if not available, Dr. Mathers will present the award.

Miscellaneous

Toll Brothers Construction on Dey Road – Dr. Krasting reported complaints concerning noise from the construction were being received from Petty Road residents. Generators are being run 24/7 to dewater the site. EC members were concerned about the sound issue, as well as the impact on wildlife and the where the water is being pumped.

APPLICATIONS

There were no applications to discuss this evening.

MISCELLANEOUS

The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be on June 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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 Ms. Vaccaro, seconded by Dr. Krasting with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 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 May 16, 2022

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 21st day of June, 2022.

Jean Golisano

Secretary
Environmental Commission