

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

June 20, 2022

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission was held on Monday, June 20, 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 igolisano@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 7:10 p.m., and Jean Golisano acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Michael Cargill, Becky Mathers, Paul Mullen, and Theresa Vaccaro were present. Josh Kohut and John Krasting were excused. Jim Gallagher, Mohan Gawande, and Jason Mildenberg were absent.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Brendan Hanson, Parks Commission

MINUTES

Mr. Mullen inquired if there were any edits or changes to the May 16th Minutes. Hearing none, on a motion by Dr. Mathers, seconded by Ms. Vaccaro, the May 16th Minutes were approved by all members present.

REPORTS

Township Committee Liaison Report – There was no report this evening.

Planning Board – There was no report this evening.

DRC Report – There was no report this evening

Zoning Committee – Mr. Mullen reported the Zoning Committee met last week and discussed updates to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, Chapter 87, which had its first reading at last week's Township Committee Meeting.

Parks Commission – Mr. Brendan Hanson reported the Parks Commission is ordering two bottle filling stations, one to replace a broken fountain in Village Park and the other is for Heritage Park. A new date for the Art in the Park event will be discussed at the July Parks meeting. Research is continuing for purchase of bike racks for Village, Heritage and Millstone Parks. Mr. Hanson reported a Parks working group gave a presentation on ADA all-inclusive playground equipment to the Parks Commission and the Recreation Commission, which both gave their support to move forward for the group to present to the Township Committee. Ms. Vaccaro inquired if thought was given to use natural materials instead of plastic. Mr. Hanson stated it was not something the group looked into but stated he would look into it.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management

Bug2School Program – Mr. Mullen reported a Cranbury resident brought this program to the attention of the Township Committee. The research project would consist of raised beds to grow zucchini and document the response of insects to different organic treatments. The idea was to get the students or camps involved, and Mr. Mullen was approached for suggestions on where the project could be placed. Mr. Mullen stated his opinion that the preserves should, as much as possible, be left as preserved open space and not used for things like a dog park or a community garden. He also stated that the program ends in mid-summer and a location may have already been selected; however, he wanted EC members to be aware of the program. Members agreed that project should be placed near the school and that the lack of accessible water also made the preserves a poor location for the program.

Sustainable Jersey – There was no report this evening.

Power Plant in Woodbridge Township – Mr. Mullen stated last month the EC approved the motion to ask the Township Committee 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 that, after some internal discussion, the Township Committee decided not to adopt this resolution at this time and that any further questions on this Resolution should be directed to May Rogers.

Spotted Lanternfly – Mr. Mullen prepared a flyer which was posted on the Township website and e-mail blasted this morning. He reported the flyer is a condensed version of last year's multiple flyers. Mr. Mullen reported that the Rutgers Cooperative Extension believes the elimination of the tree of heaven will not result in a significant reduction in the spotted lanternfly, although he still recommends that residents remove the invasive tree from their property. He reported Ms. Kathy Easton, Shade Tree Chair, attended a Rutgers webinar where it was reported there may be a phasing out of the lanternfly in some areas of Pennsylvania. If that same trend continues, there may be a similar decline in New Jersey. If that same trend follows, there should be a decline here in New Jersey in the years ahead. Mr. Mullen also reported that Shade Tree will not be spending any more funds to remove tree of heaven or spray for spotted lanternflies.

Eagle Scout Project Updates – Mr. Mullen reported Brian Li's orienteering course was completed over the weekend. The documentation for the project still needs to be completed. Mr. Mullen will meet with Mr. Li on Tuesday night to look at the course. Once all is done, Mr. Mullen will sign off on the project. Mr. Mullen reported Armaan Ahmed will create a sign and present an educational program (in conjunction with the library; on the purpose and value of the bioretention basin that will be part of the new library's stormwater management plan. The sign will be similar to the sign hat was created for the Village Park rain garden. This project is being overseen by both Mr. Mullen and Mrs. Marilyn Mullen, the Director of the Cranbury Public Library.

Health and Wellness Fair Update – The Environmental Commission maps of walking trails and preserves were displayed at the Health and Wellness Fair. Ms. Golisano reported Ms. Sally O'Grady of Parks and Ms. Lisa of Recreation "manned" the EC, Parks and Recreation tables. The event's attendance was less than hoped for due to the extremely hot weather.

Alfred Meiss Award – Dr. Kohut presented the award. Additional information about the ceremony and award will be reported at the July meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Township OPRA Request Process and the EC – Mr. Mullen voiced his concern that decisions made by Cranbury's Zoning Officer are not made known to the EC until after the 20-day appeal deadline has passed. Mr. Mullen stated the EC's key responsibilities include making recommendations to the Township on environmental issues such as stormwater management, flooding, air pollution, noise pollution, soil and landscape protection, and the protection of Cranbury's flora and fauna, particularly within Cranbury's wetlands and riparian buffers; and decisions made by the Zoning Officer could easily impact any of these concerns. Mr. Mullen further reported that his request for the EC to receive copies of the Zoning Officer's decisions in a timely manner was denied on the basis that the review of these decisions is outside the purview of the EC. Mr. Mullen stated he will submit weekly OPRA requests to the Township, as a private citizen, asking for all of the Zoning Officer's decisions from the prior week to ensure that these decisions can be reviewed within the 20-day appeal deadline.

APPLICATIONS

Ms. Golisano reported a NJ DOT Application for Freshwater Wetlands Permits was received for a Pavement Reconstruction Project in East Windsor, Hightstown and Cranbury Townships. Ms. Golisano will e-mail the letter and map to Mr. Mullen for review.

MISCELLANEOUS

The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be on July 18, 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 Mr. Cargill with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 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 June 20, 2022

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 19th day of July, 2022.

Jean Golisano

Secretary
Environmental Commission