

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

September 19, 2022

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, September 19, 2022 at 7:00PM.

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 and updated August 12, 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.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Board Chairperson Mullen called the meeting to order at 7:00PM, and Board Chairperson Mullen acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Mullen, Becky Mathers-Lowery, John Krasting, Theresa Vaccaro and Michael Cargill were present. James Gallagher, Jason Mildenberg and Josh Kohut were excused.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Jessica Hess

MINUTES

Board Chairperson Mullen inquired if there were any edits or changes to the July 18, 2022 Minutes. Hearing none, on a motion by Board Member Krasting, seconded by Board Member Vaccaro, with all members present, the motion to adopt the July 18, 2022 Minutes was passed unanimously.

RETIREMENT

Board Chairperson Mullen stated that Jean Golisano, Board Secretary for the Environmental Commission retired. He commented on her depth of knowledge and high degree of professionalism she brought to the position. She will be greatly missed.

VACANCY

Board Chairperson Mullen announced that Mohan Gawande is resigning as First Alternate. He introduced Jessica Hess, who is interested in filling the vacant position. Ms. Hess gave a brief overview of her environmental background. Board Chairperson gave an overview of the Environmental Commission. He explained that this vacancy is a Mayoral appointment and Ms. Hess will hear back from Mayor Rogers upon appointment.

REPORTS

Township Committee Liaison Report

No report.

Development Review Committee Report

Board Chairperson Mullen reported that he had spoken with Board Member Mildenberg, the Environmental Commission representative to the DRC, regarding an application at Hightstown-Cranbury Station Road that went before the DRC. The applicant will be invited to attend a future Environmental Commission Meeting to explain their plan to fill in two (2) ponds on the site while remaining in compliance with Cranbury's Riparian Zone Ordinance.

Planning Board

Board Chairperson Mullen gave an overview of the past two (2) Planning Board Meetings:

August 4th: Application PB325-19 (Halsey Reed / Hightstown Cranbury Road) was approved and is now in compliance with Cranbury's Riparian Zone Ordinance.

September 1st: The Resolution for Application PB325-19 (Halsey Reed / Hightstown Cranbury Road) was approved.

Zoning Committee

Board Chairperson Mullen, EC representative to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, stated that the Zoning Board has not met recently and is not scheduled to meet again for the remainder of 2022.

Parks Commission

Board Chairperson Mullen reported that the Arts in the Park event, featuring their new wind sculptures, took place on September 18th. The EC shared a table with the library and provided information to the public on the walking trails and Cranbury's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management

Board Chairperson Mullen mentioned that members of the public had reported downed trees on Pin Oaks Loop Trail and poison ivy at its Cranbury Road trailhead. He reported that these problems have been resolved and also mentioned that the old Scout bridge near the Farmstead Road trailhead has a couple of planks that will need to be replaced soon.

Board Chairperson Mullen stated that hunting season is approaching and discussed the walking trails that are affected.

Sustainable Jersey

Board Member Vaccaro reported that she and Mayor Barbara Rogers submitted the application for the second round of review. The Township has enough points to receive Silver status. Discussion followed regarding ways to achieve additional points. The possibility of partnering with the library was also discussed.

Eagle Scout Project Updates

Board Chairperson Mullen reported Brian Li's Orienteering Course has been completed in the Cranbury Brook Preserve. Information on how to use this course is available on the EC's website and can be accessed via a QR Code on signs at the various trail-heads of the Preserve.

Board Chairperson Mullen stated that Armaan Ahmed's project has been changed. He will not be involved with the new Library's bioretention basin sign. Instead, he plans to create a website and provide information to the public regarding residential stormwater management techniques at the library's grand opening on November 19.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Chairperson Mullen mentioned that he was contacted by Argo AI, a company located just north of Cranbury Route 130 South. They were looking for ways in which they could give back to the Cranbury community and wondered if there were any projects their employees could assist us with. He also reported that, during the Arts in the Park event, he was approached by a member of the Chinmaya Mission on Cranbury Neck Road asking the same. Board Chairperson Mullen said that he mentioned the usual EC projects such as trail maintenance, the annual Stream Clean-up event and asked the members of the EC to think about other projects that we could have groups provide assistance.

CRANBURY DAY UPDATE

Board Chairperson Mullen conducted a general discussion regarding the EC's table during Cranbury Day. The general feeling was the stormwater model and the lanternfly information didn't receive much attention, while the walking trail map and the "Alternatives to Plastic" display were of greater interest. Also, the decision to combine the EC and Shade Tree Commission displays made things confusing and cramped. He suggested it would be best for each Commission to have their own table next year.

APPLICATIONS

There were no applications this evening.

MISCELLANEOUS

The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be on October 17, 2022 at 7:00PM in Town Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None this evening.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, Board Chairperson Mullen requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Board Member Mathers-Lowery, seconded by Board Member Vaccaro, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03PM.

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 September 19, 2022

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 10th day of November, 2022.

Mary Anne Brown

Environmental Commission Board Secretary