

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

October 17, 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, October 17, 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 Paul 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, Michael Cargill and Jessica Hess were present. Jason Mildenberg and Josh Kohut were excused. James Gallagher was absent.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Brendan Hanson – Parks Commission

MINUTES

No minutes.

NEW MEMBER

Board Chairperson Mullen welcomed Jessica Hess to the Environmental Commission as the 2nd Alternate and acknowledged the reassignment of Michael Cargill as the 1st Alternate.

REPORTS

Township Committee Liaison Report

No report.

Development Review Committee Report

No report.

Planning Board

No report.

Zoning Committee

No report.

Parks Commission

Parks Member Brendan Hanson reported that the Parks Commission is considering a plan to construct amphitheater-style seating at the base of “dirt mountain” in Village Park and asked if the EC was aware of any contaminants present in that soil. Board Chairperson Mullen replied that “dirt mountain” was created in the 80’s when the lake was dredged. He stated that he was not aware of any report regarding contamination, but believed that any disturbance in that area would have to be tested for contaminants. Since the area in question is a popular sledding spot in the winter, Mr. Mullen suggested that another area be found for the proposed seating.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management

Board Chairperson Mullen reported that he had been informed by the public that a number of large trees had been cut down in Unami Woods making the eastern trailhead impassable. After visiting the site and making inquiries, Board Chairperson Mullen learned that the Township had determined these trees to be hazardous and were removed by a tree service. He requested that the Township clear the fallen trees from the trails as quickly as possible to allow the public to use the trailhead again. He also requested that the Township notify the EC when future preserve maintenance is deemed necessary as it will allow them to help the Township perform these tasks with minimal impact to the public. Cranbury’s hiking trails are the result of hundreds of hours of volunteer work by the EC, Parks, Princeton High School students, the Boy Scouts and other Cranbury residents.

Sustainable Jersey

Board Member Vaccaro reported that Cranbury Township has been awarded Silver Status from Sustainable Jersey.

Board Member Vaccaro discussed obtaining a fleet inventory for the municipal fleet, with the VIN #'s and the milage each vehicle is driven in order to calculate the carbon footprint of the fleet. Ways of obtaining the information was discussed.

Board Member Vaccaro reported that she attended the annual ANJEC Conference this past Friday. She stated the main topic focused on the stormwater utilities. She explained that the stormwater utility is a fee where payment is made based on impervious surface. This fund goes towards maintaining and upgrading the resiliency of the municipality’s stormwater management infrastructure. The speaker discussed a grant from the State where you can apply for a feasibility study. Cranbury Township may be too small but the possibility of joining in with other municipalities and submitting a regional application was discussed. She stated that there is no cost to the Township to apply for the feasibility study and no commitment to create a stormwater utility following the study. Following a brief discussion, the Environmental Commission voted to ask the Township Committee to become a part of a regional feasibility study with Monroe, Jamesburg, Helmetta and Spotswood.

Board Member Vaccaro met and spoke with a representative of Solar Landscape at the NJ Conference who stated that all the township needs for a municipality discount for community solar is municipal support, which can be as simple as a newsletter to the community. Board Member Vaccaro to speak with Mayor Rogers.

Village Park Rain Garden

Board Chairperson Mullen reported that he inspected the Village Park rain garden following a large rainstorm. He reported that the swale was collecting water from “dirt mountain” and the parking lot but was being blocked from entering the rain garden because of the rip rap at its entrance. As a temporary fix, Mr. Mullen dug a small channel through the rip rap. A more permanent fix will be explored with the DPW in 2023.

Spotted Lantern Fly

Board Chairperson Mullen reported that, in an attempt to control the spread of Lanternfly in Village Park, all female Tree of Heaven in the grove of trees in Village Park were cut down last fall. On October 6, Mr. Mullen walked through the grove to gauge the impact of this effort. He reported that virtually every remaining Tree of Heaven was loaded with lanternflies. Most other trees appeared to be untouched, except for maple trees. After getting permission from the Shade Tree Commission and the Parks Commission, Mr. Mullen applied a band of sticky-tape around one highly-infested maple tree on the edge of the grove and covered the tape with screening to prevent by-catch. Mr. Mullen will periodically inspect the tree to determine if it makes sense to continue to recommend this control strategy to residents.

Eagle Scout Project Updates

Board Chairperson Mullen stated that Armaan Ahmed is still working on his project to provide information to the public regarding residential stormwater management techniques at the library’s grand opening on November 19.

NEW BUSINESS

Cranbury Public Library Bioretention Basin Sign

Board Chairperson Mullen conducted a discussion with the EC members on a proposed sign for the Bioretention Basin that was constructed as part of the new Cranbury Public Library’s stormwater management plan. The intent of the sign is to raise public awareness on why stormwater management is needed and suggest techniques they could employ to manage stormwater on their own property. Several suggestions for improving the sign were made and will be incorporated where possible.

APPLICATIONS

No applications.

MISCELLANEOUS

The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be on November 21, 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 Krasting, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01PM.

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 October 17, 2022

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 14th day of November, 2022.

Mary Anne Brown

Environmental Commission Board Secretary