

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**September 16, 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, September 16, 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 7:07 p.m., and Jean Golisano acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Anthony Moore, resident

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the July 15, 2019 meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Ms. Till, the minutes were approved by all members present.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Preserve Management – Trail Maintenance

Cranbury Brook Preserve – Ms. Till walked the Preserve and reported several of the benches in the Preserve are in disrepair and some are obscured by branches and foliage. She stated there were ten fallen branches that needed equipment to move. She and her husband moved many branches, but some were too large to move. Ms. Till stated the paths need trimming, and the poison ivy around the benches needs to be addressed. She reported there was no garbage in the Preserve and the bridge was strong and in good shape. She stated the boards on the end of the bridge will need replacement in the future. Dr. Rogers stated she will speak to Public Works about the best way to handle the poison ivy. Dr. Rogers stated the EC needs to address the overall poison ivy management issues in the Preserve, and Mr. Mullen will walk through the Preserve to assess.

Pin Oaks Preserves – Mr. Mullen reported the “No Smoking” sign has been installed under the “No Parking” sign.

Pollinator Garden – Dr. Rogers reported she and Ms. Bhatia tended the garden about a month ago, and she returned yesterday to check it and added mulch. She stated she will talk to Public Works about possibly putting markers in to designate the mowing area.

Reinhardt Preserve and Hagerty Preserve – Mr. Mullen reported DPW mowed the areas. Dr. Rogers stated it was great to see the grass area mowed; however, she will talk to DPW about mowing the grass later in October next year.

Pin Oaks Trail – Mr. Mullen stated the path from Pin Oaks Drive to the Pin Oaks Trail has now been completed by the developer. He reported there is still a large puddle in the parking lot. Members thought Public Works already spread gravel, but there is still water. Dr. Rogers will follow up with Public Works.

Rain Garden – Dr. Rogers stated the rain garden will need some work next year and will contact the Boy Scouts to help.

Unami Woods – Mr. Mullen reported that as an action item for a walking path from the pump station behind the Fire house to Unami Woods, he looked at the tax maps to determine who owned the property behind the homes on Wynnewood Drive. Mr. Mullen stated the property is Township owned. He suggested the path be a Boy Scout Eagle project or a community volunteer project.

Sustainable Jersey 2019 Recertification - Dr. Rogers reported Sustainable Jersey Recertification was resubmitted. She reported some of the comments received back could not be addressed by a small town. As an example, one item states that Cranbury does not have a representative on the Ag Board. Dr. Rogers stated items totaling 165 points (150 are required) were submitted, and hopefully all items will be accepted. She said she will be providing feedback to Sustainable Jersey on the items that are particularly difficult for small towns to fulfill.

Brainerd Lake Dredging – Dr. Rogers reported the sediment sampling of the Lake was conducted on August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. There are no additional updates.

Master Plan Update – Dr. Rogers reported there were no updates.

Deer Management Plan – Dr. Rogers reported six of the available 15 hunting permits were obtained. The six hunters attended a training session at the Police Station on September 6<sup>th</sup>, and were assigned the property they could hunt on. Dr. Rogers explained the Deer Management Program applies to public land only, and hunters are selected on a lottery basis. Farmers are permitted to hunt on their own property. Residents within 200 feet of the properties were notified of the hunting. There was additional discussion about the signage around the hunting properties. Mr. Mullen inquired whether or not any hunters were assigned to Unami Woods or the Hagerty Property for hunting and, if not, could the hunting signs be taken down? Dr. Rogers stated she would check on this. Hunting is permitted on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays and the season began September 14<sup>th</sup>.

## NEW BUSINESS

Cranbury Day – Dr. Rogers thanked the members who volunteered on Cranbury Day. Members reported the event was well attended. Ms. Till and Mr. Mildenberg reported it worked well having the three Commissions (Shade Tree, EC and Parks) at the same table to distribute information and answer questions. Ms. Till reported Mr. Anthony Moore, who was present at tonight's meeting, inquired about the poison ivy on the trails. She suggested posting information on the website or a sign in the trails to educate the public about poison ivy. Mr. Mullen stated it is important to dress correctly with long pants and boots for hiking, and to check for ticks afterwards. Ms. Till reported Mr. Mullen's trifold with the hiking trails was well received, and residents were very interested in the geocaches. Mr. Mullen will send the trail map to Ms. Golisano to put on the website.

Budget – The budget was reviewed by the members, and suggestions were made for some improvements, including planting more wildflowers and gravel for Reinhardt Preserve parking lot. Mr. Mullen suggested the EC purchase gravel for the Pin Oaks Loop Trail parking area if the DPW was not able to do so. Dr. Rogers requested members to bring additional ideas to the next meeting, and stated the budget is due at that time.

2020 Meeting Dates – The members reviewed the proposed 2020 meeting dates, which are the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Rogers requested the August date be reflected as "optional" instead of "no meeting." On a motion by Ms. Till, seconded by Mr. Mildenberg, the members unanimously agreed to the following amended 2020 meeting dates:

January 21*	July 18
February 18*	August 17 (Optional)
March 16	September 21
April 20	October 19
May 18	November 16
June 15	December 21

\*Tuesdays, not a normally scheduled third Monday due to holiday.

Cranbury School Sustainable Jersey – Ms. Vaccaro and Ms. Lowery reported this is the year for the School's recertification. They have not yet been able to set up a meeting with the School Administrator, Dr. Susan Genco. Ms. Lowry will send an e-mail to Dr. Genco to set up a meeting concerning recertification.

Dr. Rogers reported October 10<sup>th</sup> will be a Sustainable Jersey "Walk to School Day." Dr. Rogers stated pre-made flyers are available, and Dr. Genco has agreed to send them out to the students' families. Ms. Golisano will also have the flyers posted on the Township website and emailed out to residents.

Dr. Rogers reported Dr. Josh Kohut, EC member and Rutgers professor, will be in Antarctica for two months and will be talking to schools while he is there. Dr. Kohut is already working with Princeton High School and is trying to connect with Cranbury School. Dr. Rogers reported Dr. Kohut is willing to make this happen, but the school must be on board. There is no expense to the school, but it must be coordinated.

Spotted Lanternfly – Mr. Mildenberg reported the Spotted Lanternfly has been seen locally. Mr. Mildenberg will write an article on the spotted Lanternfly.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

There were no applications for review this evening.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Anthony Moore, North Main Street, reported he is an experienced hiker and stated his concern about the amount of poison ivy on the trails. Dr. Rogers will follow up with Public Works. The members were in agreement about developing a poison ivy display to put at the trailheads of those walking trails that are particularly prone to poison ivy, such as Unami, Reinhardt and the Pin Oaks Loop Trail. Mr. Moore also inquired about the Deer Management program and Dr. Rogers clarified the rules of the Deer Management Program and stated the entrances to the hunting areas will be posted with signs.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

With no further business, Dr. Rogers requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Ms. Lowry, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 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 September 16, 2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 22nd day of October, 2019.

Jean Golisano

Jean Golisano

Environmental Commission Secretary