

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**April 17, 2023**

**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 Tuesday, April 17, 2023 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 6, 2023, of this meeting's date, time and place, and the agenda was mailed to the news media, posted on the Township bulletin Commission, mailed to those requesting personal notice, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Sally O'Grady, Parks Commission Chair and Barbara Rogers, Township Committee Liaison (7:15PM)

Commission Chairperson Mullen asked that members advise the Board Secretary in advance if they will be absent from a meeting.

**MINUTES**

Commission Chairperson Mullen inquired if there were any edits or changes to the March 20 ,2023 minutes. Hearing none, on a motion by Commission Member Vaccaro, seconded by Commission Member Gallagher, the March 20, 2023 Minutes were approved by all members present with one abstention by Commission Member Kohut.

**REPORTS**

**Township Committee Liaison Report**

No report.

**Development Review Committee Report**

No report.

**Planning Commission**

No report.

**Zoning Committee**

No report.

### Parks Commission

Sally O'Grady, Parks Commission Chair reported on the following:

- The Parks Commission will have a booth at the Health and Wellness Fair and invited the Environmental Commission to join them.
- Village Park walking trail project is scheduled to go out to bid this month, Project anticipated to begin in the fall.
- A concern regarding erosion on the lake in Village Park was brought up by a resident at the last Parks Commission meeting.
- Provided copies of the Parks Commission's 2022 Accomplishments and 2023 Goals and Objectives and gave a brief overview.
- Commission Member Vaccaro suggested the use of natural playgrounds that do not use plastics when constructing the all-inclusive playground.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Cranbury Brook Preserve Kiosk Update

Commission Chairperson Mullen reported that the information that was removed from the Cranbury Brook Preserve Kiosk last month so the kiosk could be repaired has been returned.

#### Reinhardt Trail Maintenance

Commission Chairperson Mullen reported that members of the World Wildlife Club of Princeton came on March 26th and cleaned up the Reinhardt Trail. They also installed the two (2) benches they made.

#### Walking Trail Map

Commission Chairperson Mullen distributed a copy of the walking trail map he has been working on. He discussed outlining the open spaces and the parks in the township on the map, not just the walking trails.

#### Sustainable Jersey

Commission Member Vaccaro reported that she and Dr. Rogers met with Sustainable Jersey technical assistants regarding the energy audit and focusing on the township moving forward with energy projects to save the township money. Direct install, electric vehicle infrastructure and community solar implementation were discussed. Commission Member Vaccaro and Dr. Rogers gave an overview of the NJ Community Solar Project which may provide discounted energy to residents. A representative of Sustainable Jersey has offered to come speak at the library.

#### Bike Paths

Dr. Rogers announced the county will be installing bike paths along Old Trenton Road this year.

#### Stream Cleanup

Commission Chairperson Mullen reported that 63 people are signed up for the upcoming Stream Cleanup Day to be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Rogers will be there to kick off the event. Discussion followed regarding the areas to be cleaned during the event.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Erosion Control Netting in Village Park**

Commission Chairperson Mullen discussed the plastic erosion control netting being used in Village Park, which is permissible under the State of NJ's erosion and sediment control standards. Commission Chairperson Mullen noted that the plastic may degrade into micro and nano plastics but it will never biodegrade and may work its way into the streams and surface water. There are other alternatives. After further discussion Commission Members agree to formally recommend to the Township Committee to discontinue use of plastic erosion control nettings and use biodegradable materials and work with the Zoning Board in updating the Land Use Ordinance to mandate the use of biodegradable erosion control netting throughout the township. Commission Chairperson Mullen will draft the recommendations to the Township Committee.

### **Spotted Lanternfly E-Blast**

Discussion regarding the need to start destroying spotted lanternfly eggs and sending out an informational e-mail blast to the residents.

### **Watershed Institute Mapping Workshop with DEP**

Commission Chairperson Mullen stated that there is a mapping workshop with the NJDEP on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00AM-2:00PM. Dr. Rogers discussed mapping the stormwater infrastructure and the possibility of volunteers helping. Cranbury has 3 years to complete.

### **Sustainability Summit**

Sustainability Summit will be held on May 5, 2023.

### **Tour de Cranbury**

Tour de Cranbury will be held on May 7, 2023.

## **APPLICATIONS**

No applications.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

With no further business, Commission Chairperson Mullen requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Commission Member Vaccaro, seconded by Commission Member Krasting, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.

## **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 three (3) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on April 17, 2023

Mary Anne Brown

Environmental Commission Secretary