

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

June 20, 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, June 20, 2023 at 7:05PM.

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 Chairperson Mullen acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Brendan Hanson, Parks Commission; Michael Ferrante, Mayor; Kona Macallister, Scout

Chairperson Mullen stated that as a result of Commissioner Gallagher's resignation, Commissioner Carghil is now a full active member of the EC. Commissioner Hess is now the First Alternate. Chairperson Mullen then introduced John Reinfelder who has joined the Environmental Commission as the Second Alternate. Commissioner Reinfelder gave a brief overview of his experience and why he is interested in re-joining the Environmental Commission. Finally, Chairperson Mullen thanked Jason Mildenberg for volunteering to serve as the EC's representative to the Planning Board and reminded the Commission that the EC's representative to the Development Review Committee remains vacant.

MINUTES

Only 4 Commissioners attended the May 15, 2023 meeting of the Environmental Commission. Since a minimum of 4 Commissioners are needed to approve the minutes and only 3 of those 4 Commissioners were present, Chairperson Mullen stated that approval of the May minutes would be deferred to the July meeting.

Kona Macallister Eagle Scout Project

Chairperson Mullen stated that the order of the meeting would be changed slightly to allow Scout Macallister to present his Eagle Scout project first rather than wait until the end of the meeting. Scout Macallister was accompanied by Mayor Ferrante since Cranbury has been designated as the beneficiary of this project, which will replace the existing Cranbury Brook Preserve kiosk on Main Street with a brand new kiosk. Scout Macallister and Mayor Ferrante responded to a number of

questions posed to them by the Commissioners. The Township has appointed Chairperson Mullen to be Scout Macallister's primary contact for the duration of the project.

REPORTS

Township Committee Liaison Report

No report.

Development Review Committee Report

No report.

Planning Commission

No report.

Parks Commission

Brendan Hanson, Parks Commissioner, reported on the following:

- Parks has begun discussions with the Township Committee on the need for handicapped parking at Millstone Park.
- The construction of the new Village Park walking trail project has begun and should be completed in a few weeks. Parks is also looking into having trees installed along the trail to provide shade for walkers.
- Water bottle refilling stations have been installed at Millstone Park and Village Park. The Parks Commission is looking to have stations installed in Heritage Park as well.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management

Knotweed in Cranbury Brook Preserve

Chairperson Mullen stated that a resident reported an outbreak of knotweed in the Cranbury Brook Preserve. He asked the resident for further clarification as to the exact location of the outbreak, but has not yet received that information. Chairperson Mullen stated that there appears to be no environmentally acceptable method to eradicate a large outbreak of knotweed, but an eco-friendly technique for dealing with a small outbreak does exist. He further stated that the Shade Tree Commission will be including knotweed removal as part of their Village Park reforestation project. Chairperson Mullen stated that he will follow that project closely to see if the methodology used to eradicate knotweed can be safely applied to the Cranbury Brook Preserve as well.

Hagerty Property

Commissioner Reinfelder suggested that the maintenance plan for Hagerty Property be changed to discontinue mowing in all areas other than the existing walking trail. He believes this will allow for the growth of trees that would grow in this area naturally. Chairperson Mullen stated that this discussion should continue at the July meeting when Dr. Rogers, the Township Committee's liaison to the EC, is present.

Sustainable Jersey

DEP Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping Workshop:

Chairperson Mullen reported that he and Dr. Rogers attended a Stormwater Mapping Workshop presented by the DEP at the Watershed Institute on May 18.

Cranbury Health and Wellness Fair

Commissioner Vacarro reported that she represented the EC at the Health and Wellness Fair on June 3rd, sharing a table with the Parks Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

New Inland Flood Rules

Chairperson Mullen reported that NJDEP has passed the long-awaited Inland Flood Protection Rules and that Cranbury must incorporate these rules into our local code within one year after they are published into the New Jersey Register in July. Commissioner Mildenberg provided his perspective on these rules, noting that the DEP tried to enact these rules last year but encountered extensive resistance from developers. Chairperson Mullen stated that he has been in touch with Mike Pisauo, Policy Director of the Watershed Institute. If needed, Mike is willing to attend a future EC meeting to discuss these rules as well as the DEP's upcoming changes to their stormwater rules.

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 Reinfelder, seconded by Commission Member Mildenberg, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

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 June 20, 2023

Environmental Commission Secretary