

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**October 21, 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, October 21, 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 7:03 p.m., and Jean Golisano acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Sally O'Grady, Parks Commission

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the September 16, 2019 meeting were reviewed and amended. On a motion by Ms. Lowery, seconded by Ms. Till, the amended minutes were approved by Ms. Lowery, Mr. Mildenberg, Dr. Rogers and Ms. Till. Mr. Gallagher and Dr. Kohut abstained due to absence.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Preserve Management – Trail Maintenance

Ms. O'Grady, Parks Commissioner, reported the Parks Commission members were asking about the condition of the rain garden and she stated it was in good condition. Dr. Rogers stated some work will be done on the garden before the winter.

Ms. O'Grady reported a resident asked about the height of the tall grasses along the edge of Brainerd Lake in Village Park. She told them the grasses were planted as part of the remediation of the Lake's edge. Ms. Golisano reported Mr. Jerry Thorne, Public Works, will cut the grasses; however, he requested direction on how high it should be cut. Members inquired who was responsible for the maintenance. Ms. Golisano will check with the Township Administrator on who is responsible.

Fischer Property – Ms. Lowery reported she walked some of the trail and stated it looked good.

Sustainable Jersey 2019 Recertification – Dr. Rogers reported the Recertification will be complete once the Community Forestry Plan 2018-2022 is submitted to Sustainable Jersey. Dr. Rogers thanked the members' team effort in achieving the Recertification.

Master Plan Update – Dr. Rogers reported a public meeting was held last week for input on the Master Plan Re-exam. Concerning Chapter 13, the Master Plan Subcommittee accepted almost all suggestions submitted by the EC. Mr. Gallagher explained the periodic review and update of the Master Plan is required by the Land Use Law. He stated a number of people spoke at the meeting, and Dr. Rogers voiced concerns on environmental issues. There was discussion on the wording in the Master Plan about the greenway network, bike paths and lack of residents' concern about conservation and the environment. It was agreed Dr. Rogers would send tomorrow the EC's concerns to the Master Plan Reexam Subcommittee. Mr. Gallagher explained at the next Planning Board meeting, a vote would be taken to submit the Master Plan to the Township Committee. Dr. Rogers emphasized instead of shutting down ideas, it is important to have an ongoing vision to someday have a greenway and bike paths.

Brainerd Lake Dredging – Dr. Kohut and Mr. Gallagher attended a Brainerd Lake Dredging Subcommittee meeting last Thursday. They reported GES, an engineering company, obtained sediment collections from six locations in the Lake for analysis. Five of the six samples tested slightly above residential standards for arsenic. The engineers displayed a map at the meeting, and it is estimated 40,000 cubic yards (or a depth of two feet) of sediment will have to be removed from the Lake. Per DEP regulations, the Lake can be dredged down to the original bottom and no further. The sediment must be removed and not left in the Park (like dirt mountain in the past) due to current DEP regulations. The Project will go out to bid and the dredging contractors will take their own samples of the sediment to determine the disposal. Mr. Gallagher reported the arsenic level is too high to be put on farm fields. The timeline of the Project would include the draining of the Lake, bringing in heavy equipment, allowing the sediment to dry out, and dredging and refilling the Lake. Dr. Kohut stated the fixed times to drain the Lake would be approximately mid-September to early November. He stated the Lake would not be totally drained. A channel for water to flow would be dug out on one side when dredging is completed on the other side, and then it would switch. Dr. Kohut stated this is a big job which will take a couple of months. The Project will be staged at Village Park. A ramp will be set up to the Lake, and additional gravel will be put down to reduce the amount of soil going out on the roads. The Project will be smelly and noisy, and over 90 days about 2,000 truckloads of sediment will be removed through Village Park. The last time the Lake was dredged was in the mid 1970's, two feet of sediment have accumulated.

EC members agreed the dredging is an opportunity to educate residents about the Lake and the use of noninvasive plants instead of hardscape on the Lake's edge. The Subcommittee is working on getting plans in place for the Project to begin next fall. Mr. Gallagher reported the engineering company did a similar project in Parsippany, and either Dr. Rogers or Mr. Gallagher will follow up with officials in Parsippany concerning their experience with their dredging project. Dr. Kohut stated initial Request for Bids will be prepared, reviewed and then sent out. He stated this Project is about the maintenance of the Lake.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Budget – The Members reviewed the 2020 budget and agreed the budget for most items would remain the same, with the exception of slightly increasing Community Education, Sustainability

Projects/Outreach and Environmental Training. The members discussed the increased budget would help fund community outreach by educating the residents and public about Cranbury's village and walking trails. Dr. Rogers suggested the EC could work with the Cranbury Business Association and/or interested residents about displaying information in the hotels on the east side of Route 130. She stated the hotels have no information about Cranbury, and visitors have stated they are not aware there is a village or parks and walking trails.

Cranbury School Sustainable Jersey – Ms. Lowery reported a meeting with Dr. Susan Genco, School Administrator, is scheduled the first week of November. Dr. Kohut will be traveling to Antarctica and is currently working with Princeton High School to be in touch with them during his trip. He has reached out to the Cranbury middle school science teachers to participate in his outreach program, but has not heard back from them yet. Dr. Kohut stated the target age for the Program is sixth grade to high school students. This is the pilot year and he hopes to connect with the science teachers again next year.

Environmental Resource Inventory – Mr. Gallagher inquired when the next ERI would be done. Dr. Rogers stated the last ERI was done in 2016. Mr. Gallagher suggested working on the ERI each year to make it easier than doing all of the work at the end. Dr. Rogers agreed and suggested making the ERI one of the EC's goals for next year. Dr. Kohut stated Rutgers graduate students are always looking for projects and perhaps could work on the ERI. He offered to research contacts at Rutgers, and EC members agreed this was a good idea.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

There were no applications for review this evening.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment this evening.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

With no further business, Dr. Rogers requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Mr. Mildenberg, seconded by Mr. Gallagher, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 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 three (3) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on October 21, 2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 18th day of November, 2019.

Jean Golisano

Jean Golisano

Environmental Commission Secretary