

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 19, 2018**

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, March 19, 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 4, 2017, 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, Barbara Rogers, chair of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and Debra Rubin acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Barbara Rogers, Paul Mullen, James Gallagher, Becky Mathers Lowery, Theresa Vaccaro and were present. J. McDonnell was an excused absence.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Prashun Patel, Cranbury resident

Priya Patel – 8th grade student representative.

Mona Bhatia – Cranbury resident, Environmental Commission applicant

REORGANIZATION

Barbara Rogers was named Chair by the Township Committee at their reorganization meeting in January. Jim Gallagher was reappointed to the Planning Board as the Environmental Commission representative. Becky Mathers-Lowery was appointed from an alternate member to full member status.

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 18, 2017 meeting were approved on a motion by Theresa Vaccaro; seconded by Becky Mathers Lowery. All others were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC

Barbara Rogers introduced Ms. Bhatia to the other members. Ms. Bhatia expressed her desire to become a member of the Environmental Commission. She also discussed her background and various educational courses she is participating in. She was invited to stay for the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management –

Cranbury Brook Preserve – Dr. Rogers advised that the pollinator garden needs mulch and many branches in the preserve needed cleanup due to the recent storms. There is a large branch on the walking trail that needs to be removed.

Reinhardt Preserve – The members agreed the parking lot improvement was acceptable. Nothing further needed at this time.

Pin Oaks – A Boy Scout inquired about preparing an Eagle Scout project for the Environmental Commission. After discussion from the members regarding various projects, it was suggested that Dr. Rogers reach out the scout to discuss ideas related to Reinhardt. The ideas will be brought to the commission for approval.

Village Park – Rain Garden – Previous member, Dave Marabello, provided Dr. Rogers with the maintenance schedule prior to his departure. The April Stream Clean-up is also a good time to work on the Rain Garden. The maintenance schedule will be followed.

Sustainable Jersey –

School Programs – Discussion with Priya Patel on the Terracycle program in the school and if a large box for Terracycle recycling needs to be purchased. Becky Mathers-Lowery advised that she located the box on Terracycle.com and that it is listed as free on the site.

Priya Patel will remind students about the upcoming stream clean up and coordinate the volunteers with Linda Scott, Department of Public Works, Recycling. Dr. Rogers requested Priya prepare a short paragraph for the upcoming township quarterly newsletter.

AquaPonics 2.0 – Cranbury Education Foundation purchased a 600 gallon tank and expanded bed and trough system. The tank is currently on display in the school's cafeteria. The School participants will harvest and work with Farmers Against Hunger and Skeet's Pantry to distribute food donations grown with this system.

The next edition of the Wellness and Sustainability Newsletter has been placed on the school website.

NEW BUSINESS

Year End Report 2017/Goals 2018 – Members to review the previous year report and send suggestions for updating to Dr. Rogers. The final draft will be sent to all members after the April Environmental Commission meeting.

Alfred Meiss Award - This award is presented in June to whomever the teachers choose as the winner. There will be one winner which will be presented with a \$100 gift card. The recording secretary will purchase the gift card prior the June meeting.

Stream Cleanup – The cleanup is to be held on April 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Village Park. This information will be sent to Mona Bhatia for printing and posting. Becky Mathers Lowery to share this information with the local Daisy troops.

Township Spring Newsletter– Dr. Rogers advised the deadline for submission of information is April 25th. Janice McDonnell and Paul Mullen had prepared an article on

the use of Round Up products. Paul will send the article to the members prior to the April Environmental Commission meeting. The members can review the information prior to the April meeting and be prepared to vote on what will be submitted for the newsletter. Other topics for the newsletter may be the stream clean up and the school programs.

Environmental Commission Member Recruitment – Paul Mullen and Becky Mathers Lowery will discuss the vacancies with residents that may be interested in serving on the commission. Anyone interested in applying for the commission must complete the online application from the Township website, which is sent directly to the Township Clerk. The Township Clerk then sends the applications to the Chairperson for discussion or recommendations of approval to the commission.

The members agreed unanimously to recommend Mona Bhatia for appointment on the Environmental Commission effective immediately.

Other –

Watershed – Storm Water Management – Does the Township ordinance need to be updated? Paul Mullen suggested putting topic on the 2018 Goals and assess as a future goal.

APPLICATIONS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT– None

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, Jim Gallagher, seconded by Theresa Vaccaro, thereupon adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m. on a motion. All were in favor.

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 March 19, 2018.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this ____ day of _____, 2018.

Debra Rubin, Secretary