

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
April 16, 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, April 16, 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 7:00 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, Janice McDonnell and Mona Bhatia and were present.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Yamina Patel, Cranbury resident
Priya Patel – 8th grade student representative.
Sally O'Grady – Parks Commission Representative
Tammy Sands – Stony Brook Watershed Association

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 19, 2018 meeting were approved on a motion by Paul Mullen; seconded by Becky Mathers Lowery. All others were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management –

Cranbury Brook Preserve – Discussion regarding trees that need to be cleared and removal of one blocking patch by cornfields.

Reinhardt Preserve – Paul Mullen advised that he and his family cleaned up a portion of the preserve recently.

Unami Woods – Sally O'Grady, Parks Commission Liaison, reported that she had cleaned the logs and rerouted along the path with them. She also reported that the path still needs to be marked.

Pin Oaks – Becky Mathers Lowery and family cleaned up branches. She advised that the maps need to be replaced as some have been removed.

Village Park – Rain Garden – The members discussed that the annual maintenance should begin during the Stream Clean Up. Michelle Backus, Rutgers Coop member, is to check on the sediment from the parking lot and will be suggesting species of plants for future planting.

Butterfly Garden – Barbara Rogers advised that the plants are beginning to sprout, however, they are also being eaten by the animals. This area may need fencing for the next planting season.

Cranbury Brook Preserve –Grassland Area – Seeds have been received from Ernst Conservation Seeds, Inc. The Department of Public Works needs to prepare the area for planting. Sally O'Grady discussed wanting to plant bulbs and black eyed susans at the preserves. Barbara Rogers advised that bulbs are not native and should not be planted in the preserves. The black eyed susans can be planted by the preserve signs and any other plantings should remain as native as possible. All members agreed.

Sustainable Jersey –

Sustainable Jersey recertification is to be completed in 2019. Barbara Rogers edited goals and updates for the programs.

School Programs -Theresa Vaccaro discussed the Harvest Festival that was held on April 10th, including grades 3rd-5th and Farmers Against Hunger visiting school representatives interested in learning about Aquaponics. This marked the first harvest from the Aquaponics within the school. There were samples of kale chips and micro greens for the adults to sample.

Priya Patel, 8th grade student, gave a report and will meet with Linda Scott, Department of Public Works regarding the upcoming Stream Cleanup. The number of students to participate is still to be decided.

Year End Report 2017/Goals 2018 – The list of possible goals needs to be reviewed by members and approved for 2018. All members need to review the action items and highlight for next year goals.

Alfred Meiss Award – Nancy Caruso, Cranbury School, will request recommendations from teachers. Becky Mathers Lowery to send guidelines to school for teachers to use when selecting student for award.

Stream Clean Up – The cleanup will be held on April 21st. The members will report back at the May meeting.

Township Spring Newsletter – The deadline for material submission is April 25th. The following topics will be prepared and sent for inclusion in the newsletter: Aquaponics, Stream Cleanup, Invasive Species, Conservation Easement Ordinance Summary and Environmentally Friendly Alternatives to Round Up. Paul Mullen and Janice McDonnell researched and created the article regarding Round Up. Barbara Rogers requested that Janice McDonnell investigate if Rutgers has any fact sheets available for review by the members. Paul Mullen made recommended amendments to the article and planned to resend a clean copy to the members prior to submitting for the newsletter.

Invasive Species 2018 Conference – Barbara Rogers reported her attendance at the conference which was held on Dukes Farm. She shared information on how native

species help wildlife, such as, birds, insects, etc. The conference also covered various future invasives species to be aware of.

Environmental Commission Recruitment – Applications had been forwarded to the Chairperson by the Township Clerk.

NEW BUSINESS

Scout Project – Tabled for discussion at a future meeting. No further action at this time.

APPLICATIONS –

- Letter of Interpretation – 222 Dey Road – Members discussed the application.

PUBLIC COMMENT– Nothing additional.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, Paul Mullen, 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