

## **TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY**

### **PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES**

December 4, 2019

#### **TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING**

The meeting of the Parks Commission was held in the Gourgaud Gallery in Town Hall, 23A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey, on December 4, 2019, at 9:15 a.m.

#### **OATH**

Mr. Tom Weidner, Esq. issued the oath to new member, Brendan Hanson.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum present, Ms. Lisa Rue, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and Jean Golisano acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

#### **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 November 20, 2019, 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.

#### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Brendan Hanson, Julie Hardaker, Michele Kemper, Stacy Noonan, Sally O'Grady, Lisa Rue, and Tom Weidner were present. Dr. Briggs arrived at 9:20 and Mr. Knierim arrived at 9:27.

#### **NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Bobbie Marlowe, Audrey Smith, and Steven Golisano - Cranbury Historical and Preservation  
Barbara Rogers, Environmental Commission Chair

#### **MINUTES**

On a motion by Ms. O'Grady, seconded by Mr. Weidner, the November 13, 2019 meeting minutes were approved by a voice vote of all present at the meeting, with the exception of Ms. Hardaker and Mr. Hanson, who abstained.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### Update of Improvements in Village Park and Memorial Park

Six picnic tables were ordered for the Pavilion. Ms. Rue reported the School Board was not satisfied with the walking path from the new development through Village Park to Bennett Drive. She inquired if the Parks members would have any objections to low lights at the path. Ms. Noonan pointed out there is a light at the entrance to the Park. Ms. Hardaker stated Parks could not object to lighting since it was a safety issue for students walking from the school bus to the development. All members agreed to low lighting by the walking path. Parks members were also concerned that the additional path installed by Ingerman was not as wide as promised to Mr. Knierim and Ms. O'Grady.

#### Walking Trail in Village Park

Mr. Knierim reported he contacted East Windsor for information about their walking path. Mr. Knierim stated the DOT has funds for such projects. He stated there is a process to be followed, included involving the Township Engineer for plans and submitting a package to the DOT for review.

Members agreed to speak to the Township Administrator about starting the process to draw up plans to submit to the DOT to apply for grant money. Ms. Rue will send a letter to the Township Committee for approval to go forward with the walking path and apply for a grant.

Dr. Barbara Rogers, Environmental Commission Chair, reported the EC is looking for partners for DOT grants. Information for a DOT audit must be submitted by December 20<sup>th</sup>. She stated the walking path connecting the affordable housing to the Village could be considered for Sustainable Jersey points. Ms. Noonan suggested it might be more advantageous to call the path a bike path. The members agreed to start working on the project.

Dr. Rogers reported there was concern over the wording on the trail map signs at the entrances to Unami Woods and Reinhardt Preserves. The posted signs stated the trails were maintained by Public Works. The new wording states any issues with the trails should be directed to Public Works. Dr. Rogers reported the EC approved the new wording.

Dr. Rogers reported the EC is in favor of the rain garden in Millstone Park proposed by the CHPS members.

#### Additions to Vietnam Memorial in Memorial Park

Mr. Weidner and Dr. Briggs prepared a letter with criteria for posting names on the Memorial to share with the Township Committee. Mr. Weidner reported up to ten names can be added to the monument. He reported the entire monument will be cleaned at no cost. Ms. Rue reported the Township will pay for the names to be engraved. Mr. Weidner reported there were a total of six names submitted, and based on the criteria adopted last month, four names qualified and two did not. Mr. Weidner and Dr. Briggs will try to reach out to the two members to see if Parks missed any information concerning their eligibility. Ms. Golisano will forward the criteria to the Township Committee members for their approval. If the Township Committee signs off on the criteria, the four names will be added to the monument. Ms. Rue stated the members appreciated all the research done by Mr. Weidner and Dr. Briggs.

#### Shade Tree Commission

Ms. O'Grady also reported the tree pruning and tree removal was done in Heritage Park. Sav-A-Tree worked for a week on the trees in the Park and did an excellent job. Ms. O'Grady reported the walking path in Heritage looks great and is now safe. She reported the trees on South Main Street and Old Trenton road were not trimmed. She stated she still has some concerns about the trees around the perimeter of the park.

Mr. Knierim reported there was no update on the trees that were vandalized in Heritage Park. A police report was filed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Rain Garden for Millstone Park

Members of the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society presented a request for approval for a rain garden in Millstone Park. Mr. Steven Golisano explained that the Delaware River Canal Commission has new requirements for impervious surfaces. The historic home that was recently moved increased the amount of impervious surface, and the proposed 150 square foot rain garden would be the least expensive, and most environmentally friendly solution to the problem. There was concern over where the rain garden would be placed and that it would look unkempt if left unattended. After discussion, members agreed to the rain garden and requested CHPS come back to a future meeting with proposed locations.

### 2019 Board Terms

Ms. Hardaker will be ending her term at the end of the year. The members thanked Ms. Hardaker for her service. Mr. Weidner advised he will continue as a member.

### Recreation Commission

There was no report from the Recreation Commission because the meeting had been cancelled.

### Budget Review

Members were requested to think of items for the parks for discussion at the December meeting in order to prepare the budget request.

Ms. Hardaker requested additional plantings be done around the parks' signs. She stated the plantings could be seen by residents.

The members discussed adding a handicapped swing to the playground in Village Park. With the new walkway, Ms. Noonan stated the playground is easier to access. Members agreed to do an assessment of the Township parks to make them more ADA compliant. Purchasing a handicapped picnic table was also discussed. The walking path in Village Park is a long-term goal; however, members discussed using some of Parks budget for the Township engineer to do plans for the path. Additional ideas for the budget included art in the parks and wrapping trees to prevent beaver damage.

### Who Does What by When – Below is the list for members to follow up:

Ms. Rue

1. Letter to TC concerning applying for a Village Park walking path grant
2. Parks Assignments

Mr. Weidner

1. Follow up with two applicants concerning criteria for Memorial.

Dr. Briggs

1. Follow up with two applicants concerning criteria for Memorial.

### Short List for Jerry Thorne –

1. Split-rail fence at Cranbury Preserve

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m. Motion by was made by Ms. Hardaker, seconded by Mr. Weidner, with all in favor to adjourn. The motion was carried.

**CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY**

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the acting recording Secretary of the Township of Cranbury Parks Commission and that this document, consisting of four (4) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on December, 2019.

*Jean Golisano*  
Board Secretary