

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY
PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES**

June 10, 2020

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The Cranbury Township Parks Commission Meeting was held on June 10, 2020 at 9:15 a.m. by remote access videoconferencing in response to COVID-19 and the updated Open Public Meeting Act guidelines.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Ms. Golisano called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and announced the meeting was being recorded.

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 16, 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. Notice of Electronic meetings. Remote access information was posted on the Township website on April 24, 2020 and was communicated to the Cranbury Press, Home News Tribune and Trenton Times on May 1, 2020.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Briggs, Brendan Hanson, Adam Knierim, Stacy Noonan, Sally O'Grady, Lisa Rue, and Tom Weidner were present. Bob Bolger and Michelle Kemper were excused.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteer hours since the May 13th Parks Meeting to present are: Ms. O'Grady – 7; Ms. Noonan – 6; Ms. Rue - 3; Mr. Weidner – 19; and Mr. Hanson – 6.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Dr. Barbara Rogers, Township Committee Liaison
Ms. Kathy Easton – Shade Tree Chair

MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Weidner, seconded by Mr. Hanson, the March 11, 2020 meeting minutes were approved by a voice vote of all present at the meeting with the exception of Dr. Briggs, Mr. Knierim and Ms. Noonan, who abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates on Improvements in Village Park

Walking Trail - Mr. Knierim suggested having a meeting with the Township Engineer to discuss the two or three grant options available for the new walking trail. Ms. O'Grady suggested Ms. Marabello be contacted to obtain permission to speak with the Township Engineer. Mr. Knierim will send the grant links to members to determine which grant would be best suited for this project. Ms. O'Grady inquired if application could be made to more than one grant. Dr. Rogers will speak with Ms. Marabello about meeting with Township Engineer. There was discussion about the ability to pay the Engineer from the grants or using Parks' funds.

Picnic Tables – Ms. O’Grady reported Ms. Kemper followed up with the sales representative concerning the quality of the picnic table warped boards. The new boards have been received, and Ms. Kemper will meet with Mr. Thorne concerning the replacement of the boards.

Website - Ms. O’Grady submitted edits for the website. There was discussion about additional changes. Mr. Hanson referred to the 2007 Open Space Recreation Plan, and Dr. Rogers confirmed there are many discrepancies since it is an outdated document. The Master Plan Re-Exam is calling for an updated Open Space Plan. Mr. Hanson inquired about the Cranbury Green Baseball Field, which is actually in Town Center. Ms. O’Grady requested a write-up be done on the ballfield, and Mr. Hanson stated he will do some research. Members are to send updates to Ms. Golisano. Dr. Rogers suggested updates to the website be first reviewed by the Environmental Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Poison Ivy in Heritage Park – The poison ivy in Heritage Park was sprayed with little or no change. There was discussion about the poison ivy in the various parks, and members agreed that in most areas the amount and reoccurrence of poison ivy is beyond DPW’s expertise. Ms. Rue suggested using Parks funds to treat the poison ivy. Dr. Rogers inquired if the poison ivy is in paths or in the woods. Ms. O’Grady stated it is encroaching the paths and is close enough to be a danger. Dr. Rogers suggested since the kiosk on Main Street is being updated, information on poison ivy could be included to educate the public. There was discussion about poison ivy being a native plant, which cannot be pulled out. Ms. Noonan suggested looking into goats, and Dr. Briggs suggested getting professional opinions on how to best manage it. Ms. Easton suggested getting bids from professionals. Ms. Noonan will research. Ms. Rue suggested including poison ivy control as an item in future budgets.

Life Preserver in Village Park – Mr. Knierim reported the recently-purchased life preserver in Village Park is missing. There was discussion about replacing the life preserver and how to best prevent future vandalism and theft. Ms. Rue reported the some of the hooks holding the ropes in the preserver stands are missing. There was discussion about motion sensors or more police presence to protect the parks. Ms. Noonan reported there is a lot of police presence in Village Park. It was decided to replace the life preserver in Village Park because there is more activity in the park now and Summer Camp may be held there. On a motion by Mr Knierim, seconded by Ms. Rue, with all members in agreement, it was agreed to replace the preserver this time, with consideration on future replacements if it is stolen again.

Village Park Trees – Ms. Easton reported Shade Tree will evaluate the trees in Village Park and will obtain bids to remove dead limbs and diseased trees. She also reported several trees need attention near the 1700s historic home in Millstone Park. Ms. O’Grady commended the excellent tree work done in Heritage Park, and Ms. Easton will be contacting that vendor along with two others to bid on the Village Park work.

Ms. Easton reported all five nest boxes are seeing bird activity. Ms. Easton sent photos to the Eagle Scout who built the nest boxes to let him know that the boxes provided homes for five bird families.

New Walking Trail in the Cranbury Brook Preserve

Ms. O’Grady reported she was asked to attend the EC meeting because the new trail she built was going to be discussed. She stated she was informed at the meeting that she did not have permission to build the trail. Ms. O’Grady disagreed, stating she walked the Mr. Paul Mullen, EC Chair, and showed him where the property markers were for each property. Ms. O’Grady talked to the property owners, and since all agreed to the trail, she stated Mr. Mullen also agreed to the trail since it was on Township

property. She stated if he had issues, he should have been stated so at that point. She would like to name it the Brook Trail. She reported she and her husband have been maintaining the trails in Unami Woods. She stated this trail was no different than when she built the Unami Trail. She had walked the trail with Mr. Mullen, built the trail, and never went before the Township Committee. Dr. Rogers clarified that the Township Committee needs to approve anything done on open space or Township land. She stated the EC is an advisory commission and must seek approvals from the TC. There was discussion about the process of obtaining approvals before making any changes to Township property. Ms. O'Grady suggested in the future all Parks members seek Township approval before making any improvements to Township properties.

Ms. Easton inquired what guidelines were followed when the trail was cleared. She pointed out it is important to not remove native plants or disrupt soil possibly causing erosion issues. Ms. Easton also stated no work can be done in conservation easements. Ms. O'Grady stated she only used clippers and a rake to make the trail.

There was additional discussion about the role of the Parks Commission and what parameters need to be followed on all future projects.

Ms. Noonan suggested members go look at the trail. Mr. Hanson summarized that Ms. O'Grady improved the trail, with rules or policies that precluded the trail; however, she made best faith efforts by consulting the proper authority and was unaware of the policy. The trail is a success and is being used by many residents.

Fischer Property

A resident called to report the Fischer Property is not listed as an open space. There was discussion about including the property on the Parks website. Ms. O'Grady stated she will bring this to the EC's attention at the next meeting.

Recreation Commission

Ms. Rue reported the Recreation Commission is planning to hold summer camp. She stated snow fences or cones may be used to separate groups, and inquired if Parks was agreeable to that. Tents will also be rented, and members were concerned that the grass would be damaged. Ms. O'Grady asked if Recreation would be replacing the grass and park to its original condition.

Environmental Commission

Ms. O'Grady reported Toll Brothers removed seven units from its proposed development on Dey Road because the units interfered with the riparian zone.

Bicycle Network Path

Dr. Rogers invited members to a virtual meeting on Tuesday, June 23rd from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. to provide public input on the Bicycle Network Path.

Candlelight Vigil in Heritage Park

Ms. O'Grady reported there will be a candlelight vigil in Heritage Park on June 14th in the evening. A large number of people is expected to attend and there is concern about cars parking on the grass. Ms. O'Grady stated this should be a police issue. Dr. Rogers stated the Township Committee is aware of the vigil and will take steps for public safety.

Safe Route to School

Dr. Rogers reported Cranbury was recognized by Safe Routes to School for the third year. Cranbury works in partnership with Keep Middlesex Moving to keep children safe.

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

Mr. Knierim

1. Research ways to secure life preservers.

Ms. Kemper

1. Meet with DPW to mark picnic boards to be replaced.

Ms. Rue

1. Attend Recreation Meeting.
2. Memorial bench flyer for posting on web.
3. Order replacement life preservers.

Ms. O'Grady

1. Attend Environmental Commission Meeting.

Mr. Weidner

1. Summary of Fischer Property for website.
2. Email Ms. Marabello about excess funds from Vietnam Memorial.

Mr. Hanson

1. Summary of Town Center ballfield.

Ms. Noonan

1. Research poison ivy treatments.

All Members

1. Website discrepancies.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. Motion by was made by Ms. O'Grady, seconded by Dr. Briggs, 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 June 10, 2020.

Jean Golisano

Jean Golisano
Board Secretary