

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY
PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES**

March 10, 2021

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The Cranbury Township Parks Commission Meeting was held on March 10, 2021 at 9:15 a.m. by remote access videoconferencing in response to COVID-19 and the updated Open Public Meetings Act guidelines.

OATH OF OFFICE

Ms. Golisano, Deputy Clerk, issued the Oath of Office to Ms. Kellie Lavery, Second Alternate on the Parks Commission, with a term expiration of December 31, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Ms. Golisano called the meeting to order at 9:18 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 January 8, 2021 of this meeting's date, time and place, and the agenda was communicated 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

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

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteer hours since the February 10th Parks Meeting to present, including 1.5 hours for today's meeting, are: Mr. Bolger – 4.5; Dr. Briggs – 1.5; Mr. Hanson – 9.5; Ms. Kemper – 1.5; Mr. Knierim – 2.5; Ms. O'Grady – 7.5; and Ms. Noonan – 5.5 and Mr. Weidner – 4.5.

MINUTES

The February 10, 2021 Minutes were reviewed by the members. On a motion by Mr. Bolger, seconded by Mr. Hanson, the February 10th meeting Minutes were approved by a voice vote of all present at the meeting, with the exception of Ms. Lavery who abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates on Village Park

Walking Trail – The Township Committee discussed the walking trail in Village Park at its March 8th meeting. Before the trail can be installed, the Engineer explained a survey and topographical map would be necessary. Ms. O'Grady reported the cost would be \$12,000; however, members agreed the survey and map are necessary to avoid having the trail in wet areas. The Township will add the \$12,000 cost of the engineer for the survey in next year's budget.

Life Preserver – Parks Commission members thank Public Works for mounting the life preserver in Village Park.

Heritage Park

ADA Picnic Table – The ADA picnic table has been ordered, and with shipping, the cost will be \$677.05. Ms. O’Grady would like to meet with DPW to discuss the location for placement of the table in Heritage Park.

Additional Parking in the Park – Members discussed the shortage of parking at Heritage Park and possible options for parking overflow. Currently there are 12 parking spaces and one handicapped space. There has been an issue with cars parking on the grass, and members discussed four possible solutions to present to the Township Committee, including 1.) Do nothing; 2.) Paint a yellow line along the right side and ask for more police enforcement; 3.) Add additional signage about additional parking on South Main Street, Old Trenton Road and Stockton Drive; and 4.) Add additional parking, mirroring the existing parking that is already there. Members discussed there is already a sign prohibiting parking on the grass that lists a \$50 fine, and although there is parking on Stockton Drive that residents utilize, members do not want to publicize that to the public. Ms. O’Grady will inquire if parking is permissible on Old Trenton Road. Members all agreed that adequate parking is essential to the highly-used park. Ms. O’Grady requested Public Works repaint the lines in the parking lot. She will bring this issue to Mr. Taylor’s attention.

Drainage on Walkways in Heritage Park – There are several drainage problems on walkways in Heritage Park, which cause concern about safety when muddy or if the areas freeze. Ms. O’Grady met with the Township Engineer the day before, and he had several solutions that he was going to present to the Township Administrator. Ms. O’Grady will bring the issues to Mr. Taylor’s attention. Also of concern is the sidewalk at the corner at South Main Street and Old Trenton Road, and Ms. Golisano will address that with Public Works.

Members also discussed a muddy path off the back of the parking lot that people and bikes use as a shortcut. Planting new grass will not resolve the problem, and members discussed adding mulch, small gravel or a permanent walkway. Ms. O’Grady will also alert Mr. Taylor of this issue.

Interactive Art in the Park – A subcommittee consisting of Ms. Kemper, Ms. Lavery and Ms. Noonan, was formed to research interactive art for one of the Township parks. The \$10,000 budget must include the structure, installation and landscaping. Possible locations will also be researched.

Ms. Noonan left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Changing Code on use of Tennis Courts – The Township Code currently states the tennis courts are to be used for tennis only. Members discussed changing the wording in the Code to include pickleball since the court are currently also being used for pickleball. Ms. Golisano reminded the members that updating the Code is expensive and this may not be a priority for the Township Committee. A motion to see if the Township Committee deemed it necessary to change the code to include pickleball was made by Mr. Hanson, seconded by Mr. Weidner. All members present voted in favor, with Ms. Kemper and Ms. Lavery abstaining, and the motion was passed. Ms. O’Grady stated she will bring this issue to Mr. Taylor.

Dog Park – Members discussed having a dog park in the Township. Currently all dogs must be leashed in the Township, even in parks and open space. Members agreed there are dog parks in neighboring

towns that could be used. Mr. Bolger stated the demand is high and he thought Cranbury residents would use a dog park. Mr. Hanson created maps of the Township parks showing possible locations for a dog park. After some discussion, most members agreed that Parks is not in favor of a dog park in its parks. Ms. O'Grady reported the EC also does not want a dog park in the Township's open spaces. Mr. Knierim will follow up with the Economic Development Advisory Commission to ascertain if a dog park was an item requested on their survey.

Recreation Commission – Ms. O'Grady and Mr. Hanson attended the meeting. Ms. O'Grady reported Mr. Hanson's interactive map has been posted on the website. Mr. Bolger attended the meeting to discuss the skate park at Village Park. Ms. O'Grady reported members of the Recreation and Parks Commission will form a subcommittee to work on a master plan for the parks. Mr. Knierim and Mr. Hanson will represent the Parks Commission.

Recreation is partnering with the Board of Health and the Library to present Wellness Informational Sessions via Zoom.

Environmental Commission – Ms. O'Grady attended the meeting and reported the EC discussed the stormwater management and the outside storage of de-icing materials at the warehouses

2021 Commissioner Assignments

Village Park – Adam Knierim, Bob Bolger, Bob Briggs

Heritage Park – Sally O'Grady, Adam Knierim, Stacy Noonan

Memorial Park – Tom Weidner and Michele Kemper

Millstone Park – Kellie Lavery, Michele Kemper, Brendan Hanson

Cranbury Brook Preserve– Brendan Hanson, Stacy Noonan

Barn Park – Sally O'Grady and Bob Bolger

Reinhardt Preserve –Bob Briggs and Kellie Lavery

Hagerty Property/Fisher Preserve (Pin Oaks Trail) – Bob Bolger and Bob Briggs

Town Center – Tom Weidner and Adam Knierim

Unami Woods/Cranbury Brook Trail – Sally O'Grady and Stacy Noonan

Shadow Oaks/Millstone Easement – Brendan Hanson and Kellie Lavery

Miscellaneous – Mr. Weidner inquired about the possibility of adding ornamental trees to Heritage Park. He stated the Park is beautiful and some ornamental trees would enhance the Park. He will follow up with Shade Tree.

Since the weather has turned warmer, Ms. O'Grady suggested members get out and walk their parks.

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

Ms. O'Grady

1. Attend Environmental Commission Meeting.
2. Attend Recreation Meeting.
3. Contact Mr. Taylor about updating ordinance wording for tennis courts and drainage issues on walking path in Heritage Park.

Mr. Weidner

1. Contact Shade Tree about ornamental trees for Heritage Park.

Mr. Bolger

1. Walk Village Park for walking path.

Ms. Noonan

1. Research Interactive art for parks.

Ms. Kemper

1. Research Interactive art for parks.

Ms. Lavery

1. Research Interactive art for parks.
2. Obtain interactive information from Ms. Rue.

Mr. Hanson

1. Work with Recreation Commission to develop Master Plan of parks.

Mr. Knierim

1. Work with Recreation Commission to develop Master Plan of parks.
2. EDAC survey – dog park demand?

Ms. Golisano

1. Discuss sidewalk (corner of Old Trenton and South Main) with Public Works.

Short List for Public Works

1. Meet with Sally O'Grady to discuss placement of ADA picnic table in Heritage Park.
2. Repaint lines in Heritage Park parking lot.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. Motion by was made by Mr. Bolger, 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 March 10, 2021.

Jean Golisano

Jean Golisano
Board Secretary