

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
September 26, 2023

The Township Committee Meeting of the Township of Cranbury was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Town Hall. Answering present to roll call were Township Committee members: Eman El-Badawi, Lisa Knierim, Dr. Barbara Rogers, Matthew Scott (7:03pm) and Mayor Michael Ferrante. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/CFO and Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk. Mayor Ferrante led in the salute to the flag, and Ms. Rubin read the following Open Public Meetings Act statement:

In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, it is hereby announced and shall be entered into the minutes of this meeting that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided:

Posted on the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Office at 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey and remains posted at that location.

Communicated to the Cranbury Press, Home News Tribune and Trenton Times on January 6, 2023.

Filed on January 6, 2023 at the Cranbury Municipal Office, 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey, posted on the Township's web site and remains on file for public inspection.

Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

Agenda Additions/Changes: None

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Ferrante asked if any members of the Township Committee would like to address changes or amendments to the following minutes. Hearing none, Mayor Ferrante asked for a motion to adopt the following minutes:

-- Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023

On a motion by Ms. Knierim, seconded by Dr. Rogers, along with the following roll call vote of the members of the Township Committee;

Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Knierim
(Rogers
(Ferrante

Abstain: (None
Absent: (Scott

Nays: (None

the Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2023 were adopted unanimously by the members present.

Reports and Communications:

Members of Committee

- Dr. Rogers – Dr. Rogers reported on her attendance at the Environmental Commission and Board of Education meetings. She provided updates to the Municipal Energy Audit and Community Solar programs. She additionally provided an update to several projects on behalf of the Traffic Subcommittee including crosswalk improvements, several Township roads and gateway signage.
- Ms. Knierim – Ms. Knierim reported that she will be unable to attend her upcoming liaison meetings in October but plans to liaison with each Chair. She reported on the Board of Health's rabies clinic and Senior Survey results.
- Mr. Scott – Mr. Scott reported that he was unable to attend the Parks Commission meeting, however, Ms. El-Badawi attended on his behalf. Mr. Scott provided an update regarding the chess table procurement for Heritage Park. Ms. Marabello suggested inviting the Parks Commission to the next Township Committee meeting to discuss the project. Mayor Ferrante agreed and asked Mr.

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Scott to contact and invite the Parks Commission to attend the next Township Committee meeting. Mr. Scott also provided an update for the inclusive playground and pickleball projects, as well as, the recreation survey.

- Ms. El-Badawi – Ms. El-Badawi reported on her attendance at the Municipal Alliance meeting. She was unable to attend the Zoning Board meeting. Ms. El-Badawi provided an update to the Open Space Recreation Master Plan and pickleball project memo.

Mayor

Mayor Ferrante – Mayor Ferrante reported on his attendance at the Library Board of Trustees meeting. He reported on his attendance at the Scout Troop 52B meeting and the appointment of a new Scout Master. He additionally provided an update to the status of the easement project at Parkside at Bennett Place.

Reminders:

- **September 28th** – Golf Workshop at the Cranbury Public Library
- **September 30th** – Girl Scout Welcome Back Bonfire
- **October 3rd** – Disaster Preparedness presented by FEMA at the Cranbury Public Library
- **October 4th** – Supporting Children in Reducing Their Stress (And Ours) at the Cranbury School auditorium
- **October 5th** – Pallet Sign Painting Workshop at the Cranbury Public Library
- **October 7th** – Country Line Dancing at the First Presbyterian Church
- **October 7th-8th** – Clean Up Day at Public Works Garage
- **October 10th** – Candidates Night
- **October 14th** – Fire Company Open House at the Firehouse
- **October 18th** – Mayor's Health Free Vaccines and Screening – Parking Lot of the Cranbury Public Library
- **Free Narcan Training every month**

Department Heads:

Police Department

Chief Michael Owens, Chief of Police, gave his reports of May through August. He reported on the success of National Night Out and Cranbury Day events. Mayor Ferrante reported on his and Chief Owens' attendance at the US Customs and Immigration Service district office opening earlier in the month

Follow-up Items: None.

Boards: None.

Work Session – Eagle Scout Project – Steven Cenci

Mr. Steven Cenci of Troop 52B presented his Sustainable Spotted Lanternfly Traps Eagle Scout Project. The project includes; building and installing the traps on township property; along with educating the community on how to construct for their personal use. He plans to cover the costs by fundraising.

Mayor Ferrante suggested including, as a part of his fundraising efforts, a QR code next to the trap stating the trap was sponsored and to research the use of biodegradable bags. Mr. Cenci explained that he will lead the fundraising, construction, and installation of the traps with fellow Scout members' assistance.

Mayor Ferrante summarized he is to work with Paul Mullen of the Environmental Commission and Kathy Easton of the Shade Tree Commission. The mayor requested he explore the use biodegradable bags and how to educate the public with signs and QR codes. The Township Committee thanked Mr. Cenci for his project and approved same pending his further research and recommendations made by the Township Committee.

Boards and Commissions – Mayoral Appointments/Vacancies

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Mayoral Appointments:

- Parks Commission
 - Christina Ftikas – Member, expiring 12/31/25
 - Priyanka Shetty – 1st Alternate, expiring 12/31/23

Vacancies:

- Parks Commission
 - 2nd Alternate, expiring 12/31/23
- Municipal Alliance
 - Member, expiring 12/31/23

Ordinances:

First Reading – None.

Second Reading – None.

Resolutions – Consent

Mayor Ferrante asked the Committee if there were any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, Mayor Ferrante asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda resolution(s). On motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Ms. Knierim, the following Consent Resolution(s) were adopted unanimously by the following vote:

Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Knierim
(Rogers
(Scott
(Ferrante

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 09-23-089

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Cranbury that all bills and claims as audited and found to be correct be paid;

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 09-23-090

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PEDESTRIAN
ACCESS EASEMENT**

WHEREAS, it is a goal of the Cranbury Township Master Plan to provide a network of pedestrian paths to link residential neighborhoods with community facilities and commercial areas; and

WHEREAS, Ingerman is the fee simple owner of approximately 3.89 acres of land located in the Township of Cranbury, County of Middlesex, New Jersey, identified on the Tax Maps of the Township of Cranbury as Block 33, Lot 13.04 ("Tract One"); and

WHEREAS, on Tract One Ingerman operates an age-restricted senior housing community known as "Birchwood at Cranbury," located at 1 Justin Drive, Cranbury, NJ 08512, and a residential

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community restricted for residents of low and moderate income known as "The Willows at Cranbury," located at 2 Justin Drive, Cranbury, NJ 08512; and

WHEREAS, CHA is the fee simple owner of approximately 3 acres of land located on the Tax Maps of the Township of Cranbury as Block 33, Lot 13.05, ("Tract Two"); and

WHEREAS, on Tract Two CHA owns and operates a residential community restricted for residents of low and moderate income known as "Parkside at Bennett Place"; and

WHEREAS, Tract One and Tract Two are adjoining properties; and

WHEREAS, Ingerman, CHA and the Township would like to create a walkable sidewalk (the "Path") connecting Tract One, through Tract Two, to existing public sidewalks on Bennett Place, thus affording pedestrian access to schools, shopping and other community facilities in downtown Cranbury; and

WHEREAS, the Township supports this project, and has agreed to facilitate the creation of the Path by (1) preparing an engineering plan, and (2) constructing the Path at the Township's sole cost and expense; and

WHEREAS, to effectuate the foregoing, and to provide for pedestrian access from Tract One to the existing public sidewalk on Bennett Place, the parties have agreed to enter into this Pedestrian Access Easement substantially similar to the Attached Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury authorizes the Township Clerk and the Township Mayor to execute the Pedestrian Access Easement in a form substantially similar to that attached as Exhibit A, and as approved by the Township Attorney.

Public Comment

Mayor Ferrante reminded the public of the three (3) minute time limit for public comment. Mayor Ferrante then opened the meeting to public comment.

Hearing and seeing no one, Mayor Ferrante closed public comment.

Action Items –

- Mr. Cenci's Eagle Scout Project conditions to be recorded in the Minutes
- Parks Commission to attend the October 9th Township Committee Meeting

Adjourn

Mayor Ferrante requested a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Ms. El-Badawi, seconded by Dr. Rogers and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Debra A. Rubin
Debra A. Rubin, RMC
Municipal Clerk