

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 16, 2016**

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., Monday, February 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 1, 2015, 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 7:02 p.m. and Wendy W. Borg acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Barbara Rogers, Dave Marabello (7:15), Andy Johnson, Jim Gallagher, Paul Mullen, and Theresa Vaccaro (7:09) and Becky Mathers Lowery were present. Paul Ginoux was absent.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jonathan Lin, Cranbury School Student Council liaison
Todd Ochsner, Verde Group, Applicant
Mark Lescavage, Envision Engineering, Engineer
Rich LaMont, Planner, Quick Chek
Derek Jordan, PE, Bohler Engineering, Quick Check

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting were amended and approved on a motion by Jim Gallagher; seconded by Paul Mullen. Becky Mathers Lowery abstained. All others were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Cranbury Brook Preserve – There is interest in the butterfly garden and the milkweed has been ordered.

Sustainable Jersey –

School Programs – Green Team meetings need to be set up on a regular basis. Action items been written and parties have been notified. Health and Wellness items were sent to the nurse, and facility items were sent to Dave Gallagher, head of facilities.

Offer from the EC and the Recycling department for a group of students together to clean up an area of township. Jonathan presented the idea to the Student Council and there was a lot of interest. The EC suggested they join in on the Stream Clean up but clean up Main Street instead of near the waterways.

Jonathan sent along a flier for the Terracycle collection at the township. A box is still needed.

Cranbury Arts Council - Dr. Rogers has not heard back from the CAC.

Environmental Resource Inventory – Mr. Johnson reported they are in the process of integrating the maps; the data is not working well because files can't be opened. Mr. Johnson will meet with intern Johnny Quispe soon. Mr. Johnson will contact the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed for updated water resource quality information. He also has a call into Sustainable Jersey about the report due in March. He reported they will use the information for a community outreach program. Resolution and declaration are needed from the township confirming work is complete. This needs to be sent in by end of March. Mr. Johnson will contact Township Committee liaison Susan Goetz to review the update. Mr. Mullen and Mr. Gallagher will also review the updated ERI.

Village Park Rain Garden – Mr. Marabello will check the garden at the end of February to see which plants survived the winter.

Millstone Trail – No word from township on the name of the area. DEP permit approval has been given. Plans are for trail blazing in the springtime.

Redevelopment project – No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Cedar Brook Crossing - The applicant appeared before the Commission to present its engineering plans of a proposed gas station on the northeast corner at Cranbury South River Road and Dey Road. The site is right next to the Cedar Brook. The applicant is in process with township Zoning Board, and is seeking approval for their site plan. They will also need approval from the state DEP and the D&R Canal Commission.

The EC wrote a memo to the Zoning Board expressing their concerns that the application does not list the variance needed to the township Riparian Zone Ordinance, and the EC advises that such a variance not be granted. The memo also does not recommend locating a service station close to one of Cranbury's streams as damage to the stream could reasonable result from gasoline spills and/or runoff. The EC recommends that the use variance required for the proposed service station not be granted. The township master plan does not include service stations in this area.

Their plan includes reforestation of a lawn in the stream corridor, and decreasing building and impervious coverage in the Riparian Zone, but increasing it on the whole property. The applicant does not have approvals from the DEP or the D&R Canal Commission as of now. Township approval is needed first.

Commissioners are concerned about the location of installing a gas station near the Cedar Brook, an environmentally sensitive area, and the need for a variance in the Riparian Zone. Mr. Gallagher produced a file on the DEP website of 33 pages of violations by Quick Chek. Mr. Mullen would like a written mitigation plan. He also was concerned that trees were being cut down in the plan. Mr. Gallagher noted there are

already four properties in town that hold existing or former service stations, and have environmental impacts including soil and or groundwater contamination. He added that service stations are a risk. He would like the applicant to explain the violation record.

Motion made to update memo to Zoning Board by Andy Johnson; seconded by Paul Mullen. All others were in favor. Dr. Rogers thanked the applicant but noted that concerns with the Riparian Zone use variance remain and a management plan is needed. Mr. Gallagher will revise the memo.

Year End Report 2015/Goals 2016 – Work on this document continues.

Meiss Award - Ms. Lowery is spearheading the project this year. Discussion on how to change the award. She will draft a new invitation for the March meeting.

Sustainable Jersey recertification - Dr. Rogers divided up action items for members and other township personnel for recertification. Submission is due June 5.

Cranbury cable channel - Several items could be placed on the channel - open position on the EC; town wide trail map; spring clean up; terracycle; rain garden information.

APPLICATIONS – See Cedar Brook Crossing

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, Paul Mullen, seconded by Jim Gallagher, thereupon adjourned the meeting at 9:54 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 February 16, 2016.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this ____ day of _____, 2016.

Wendy W. Borg, Secretary