

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
April 18, 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, April 18, 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 7:05 p.m. and Wendy W. Borg acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Jonathan Lin, Cranbury School liaison to the EC  
Ed DiFiglia, Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Policy Director  
Sally O'Grady, township Parks Commissioner  
Bauder family, residents  
Nicole Wells, Tap into Cranbury website

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 16, 2016 meeting were amended and approved on a motion by David Marabello; seconded by Andrew Johnson. All were in favor.

The minutes of the March 21, 2016 meeting were amended and approved on a motion by Jim Gallagher; seconded by Paul Mullen. All were in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Cranbury Brook Preserve – Local Girl Scouts are interested in installing a butterfly garden near the interior kiosk and the grasslands, for their Silver Award. Dr. Rogers has asked Jerry Thorne to scoop some rhizosphere to loosen up the land.

Dr. Rogers obtained a smaller NRCS sign for the first meadow on the road to replace the larger one that is in disrepair.

Sustainable Jersey –

School Programs – Mrs. Vaccaro reported an application has been submitted for Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification for Cranbury School. Silver level is the aim at 350 points.

Jonathan reported that for the Terracycle box for the township building will be brought over soon.

For the spring clean-up, Jonathan and other 8<sup>th</sup> grade students cleaned Village Park and Main Street and cleaned up garbage and recyclable materials. A portion of the Clean Communities grant from the recycling department will fund the 8<sup>th</sup> grader's efforts.

Cranbury Arts Council – The event has been tabled until fall.

Sustainable Jersey recertification – Dr. Rogers is collecting action items and gathering information for points. June 5<sup>th</sup> is the target date for submission. One point, an innovative project, could be geocaching. Mr. Mullen will review. Mr. Johnson submitted the ERI section. Mr. Marabello submitted rain garden items. Linda Scott submitted recycling items. Shade Tree Commission Chair Kathy Easton has been asked to submit tree items.

Environmental Resource Inventory – Final report was submitted March 29. Township will receive a \$2,000 grant. Input was received from the state about endangered species; and also farmland preservation. Mr. Johnson is still seeking fish and wildlife info from the federal government; data on two tables is needed from Intern Johnny Quispe; working on Open Space map with Tax Assessor Steve Benner;

Two library sessions will be scheduled in the fall for community outreach and to summarize the ERI and how to use it.

Year End Report 2015/Goals 2016 – Tabled until next meeting.

Meiss Award – This year's award has been changed to honor a middle school student who is environmentally conscious. Mrs. Lowery and Dr. Rogers edited the criteria for teachers to select an award recipient. Information has been passed on to the school for approval.

Village Park Rain Garden – Dr. Rogers and Dave Marabello reviewed the area. DPW provided and spread some new mulch. Evidence of most plants coming back. Replanting this year is still in question. More stone needed in the channel swale and grass seed is needed in the swales. This should be done in the next two weeks.

"Pin Oaks" Loop Trail – Boy Scout Hunter Pormilli organized Boy Scout volunteers and has cleared the mile long trail and blazed it. The Township Committee has yet to respond on the proposed name of the trail. Mr. Mullen will install GPS maps at the trailhead and at the bridge. Mr. Mullen replaced some rotted planks on the bridge.

Redevelopment project – No discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Stream Clean Up Results – On Saturday, April 16, over 50 volunteers cleaned up Village Park, behind the firehouse and other areas of the township abutting waterways. Statistics are being compiled. Items included tires, lumber, fencing and trash. Thank you notes will be sent to participating groups. Volunteers included Environmental Commissioners, the Bloomberg company, Cranbury School 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, and local scouts.

**APPLICATIONS** – Cedar Brook Crossing – A memo from the EC was sent to the township Zoning Board about the variance to the Riparian Zone ordinance, and the requested use variance. The EC recommended that the applicant receive the RZ variance with conditions. The EC would like oversight of the mitigation effort, and also to approve the Operations and Management Plan.

In the memo, the EC also recommended against granting the use variance because a service station is a potential source of contamination and this station would be close to an environmentally sensitive area.

Proposed is a gas station on the northeast corner at Cranbury South River Road. 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.

Dr. Rogers and Mr. Mullen attended the recent Zoning Board meeting and reported to the public and board that the Master Plan does not allow for a service station in this space. No action was taken. The applicant needs to re-appear before the Zoning Board again.

Ed DiFiglia reported that another waterway, an intermittent stream and unnamed tributary of the Cedar Brook, is located on eastern side of the property and should have the 150-foot protection. He noted this could become a bigger issue if it is ignored. The applicant's conservation easement is from the D & R Commission easement template.

The Bauders questioned the intentions and procedures of the Zoning Board. They reported that the Zoning Board was told to disregard the EC's recommendations.

Proposed bench for Cranbury Brook Preserve – Correspondence from resident Miles Reinfelder. He would like to install a wooden bench. Dr. Rogers will communicate with him.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Mrs. O'Grady reported that Parks Commission is working with an Eagle Scout on a sign for Village Park; submitted goals to the Township Committee; checking into a clear cut of trees at the edge of a private property and Heritage Park.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

With no further business, Paul Mullen, seconded by Jim Gallagher, thereupon adjourned the meeting at 8:51 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 April 18, 2016.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

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Wendy W. Borg, Secretary