

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 20, 2017**

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., on Monday, March 20, 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 5, 2016, 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 7:07 p.m. and Wendy W. Borg acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Barbara Rogers, Paul Mullen, Becky Mathers Lowery, David Marabello, Theresa Vaccaro and Janice McDonnell (7:22) were present. James Gallagher and Andy Johnson emailed their absence. Paul Ginoux was absent.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Eva Zu, Cranbury School Student Council member
Ed DiFiglia, Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Policy Specialist
Connie Bauder, resident

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting were amended and approved on a motion by Paul Mullen; seconded by David Marabello. All others were in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management – Jerry was notified on the washed out wooden bridge in the Cranbury Brook Preserve. Dr. Rogers visited the Preserve butterfly garden with the Girl Scouts leader Mrs. Bhatia. She also reported that Jerry will roto-till a section near the edge of the first grassland and she will plant a wildflower seed mix there. She will contact Jerry on the downed tree on a trail in the Preserve.

Mr. Marabello will inquire about the wet area near the trailhead of the Pin Oaks Loop trail.

Sustainable Jersey School Programs – Ms. Lowery submitted a newsletter article for the school website about the township’s trails, the upcoming stream clean up, and sustainability efforts and wellness initiatives within the school.

At the March 10 meeting of the Sustainability and Wellness Council, an idea was floated on building a greenhouse with upcycled plastic bottles. Mrs. Vaccaro reported that Sustainable Jersey has awarded 40 points to the school during the first round of certification.

The school cafeteria now has five waste bins – food, recycling, Terracycle, bottle tops, and liquids. The Cranbury Education Foundation will purchase a salad bar for the cafeteria. Aquaponics is still running with the growth of the tilapia.

Eva reported that the students are interested in providing reusable water bottles to school students as an eighth grade gift. There are two water stations in the school.

Mrs. Scott of the Recycling department will visit with the Student Council to discuss the Clean Communities Grant activities.

Year End Report 2016/Goals 2017 – Both reports were amended and approved. The Year End Report was approved on a motion by Dave Marabello; seconded by Theresa Vaccaro. All were in favor. The Goals report was approved on a motion by Paul Mullen; seconded by Dave Marabello. All were in favor. Dr. Rogers will contact the Clerk to be added to an upcoming Township Committee agenda to share the reports.

Alfred Meiss Award – Ms. Lowery will send the award explanation to the school for distribution to the teachers.

Stream Clean Up – The annual event is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The Lions Club is organizing a group to participate this year.

Township Committee meeting report – Mr. Marabello attended the March meetings and reported on the work session on the planned smoke-free parks ordinance, and the future projects list for some capital budget expenditures, such as \$5 million for lake dredging. He asked Mayor Cook and liaison Susan Goetz to keep the EC informed on the lake activities. Also, Tom Weidner reported to the Township Committee that the Parks Commission would recommend a minimized rain garden at the future public library site.

Mr. Marabello will also attend future March and April meetings.

Township spring newsletter – Submissions will include an article about the drought, the role of the township Environmental Commission, the upcoming application for the conservation easement, and Cranbury School news.

Conservation Easement Grant – A grant from ANJEC is offered for \$1500, with application due by April 7. The Tax Assessor will update his tax maps with the Township Engineer and the subcommittee will meet with him. An inventory of conservation easements is needed because each easement is written differently. A baseline data file and public education will be created.

NEW BUSINESS

Plainsboro Road run-off – Mrs. Bauder appeared before the Commission to report that she believes that flooding water is contaminated and that the Township Committee has been discussing this. Mr. Mullen will look into this.

ANJEC conference – Dr. Rogers attended and reported that valuable information was given and that Cranbury was recognized for its great environmental efforts.

APPLICATIONS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, Becky Mathers Lowery, seconded by Theresa Vaccaro, thereupon adjourned the meeting at 8:50 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 March 20, 2017.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Wendy W. Borg, Secretary