

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
October 16, 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, October 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 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 7:05 p.m. and Debra A. Rubin acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Barbara Rogers, Paul Mullen, Becky Mathers Lowery, Jim Gallagher, and Theresa Vaccaro were present. Andy Johnson and David Marabello were excused. Janice McDonnell was absent.

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Denise Marabello – Township Administrator  
Ed DiFiglia – Stony Brook Regional Watershed Center  
Sally O'Grady – Environmental Commission Member  
Prashun Patel  
Priya Patel – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Council President

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting were amended and approved on a motion by Becky Mathers Lowery; seconded by Teresa Vaccaro. On a voice vote of all members present, four were in favor and one abstained. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT–**

- School Program – Members discussed with Student Council President Priya Patel various responsibilities of the commission, as well as, her upcoming role working in conjunction with commission. It was suggested that she review the township website and newsletter to better affiliate herself with past and future goals and achievements. Chairperson Rogers advised that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have an opportunity to earn

\$200 by helping clean up after the Scarefest. Miss Patel responded that their participation would be brought to a vote by the students.

- Denise Marabello, Township Administrator – Thanked the members for their work and participation in Cranbury Day. Sally O’Grady added that the Parks Commission hopes to join the Environmental Commission on the next Cranbury Day as a joint collaboration. Chairperson Rogers discussed the budget process with Ms. Marabello.
- DEP Grant – Ed DiFiglia discussed the positive impact the grant will have regarding expanding the watershed program statewide. The grant provides for more and equipment and additional monitoring.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Preserve Management –

- Habitat Enhancement – The grasslands in Cranbury Brook Preserve had been recently mowed. The current status at Pin Oaks is unknown at this time.
- Trail Maintenance –
  - Unami Woods – Discussion on whether the trails should be blazed for easier use. It was decided to keep the trails as natural as possible. The Boy Scouts may assist with the various trail maintenance next spring.
- Village Park –
  - Rain Garden – Approximately 5 Boy Scouts, along with adults, clipped vegetation and added stone to the rain garden. The scouts were very helpful in assisting with this maintenance. The leader suggested partnering with the commission on other projects as well. Becky Mathers Lowery will inquire if any Girl Scout troops are interested in similar partnership.
  - Bank Restoration – Sally O’Grady advised the commission of the major concerns from the Parks Commission relating to the plantings involved in the bank restoration project. Paul Mullen suggested inviting Township Committee liaison, Susan Goetz, to next meeting to discuss plantings and the future maintenance of the plantings. Denise Marabello advised that a landscape engineer worked on the plans, which were approved by the DEP. Chairperson Rogers will email the landscape engineer to request a copy of the plans.
- Heritage Park – Sally O’Grady discussed the dead trees that need removal due to safety issues. Denise Marabello commented that Jerry Thorne, Department of Public Works and the Shade Tree Commission are aware of what trees need to be removed.

Sustainable Jersey School Programs –The Green Team had their first meeting in September.

Township Committee meeting report– None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Potential Teen Programming – No information to discuss as Janice McDonnell is not in attendance.

Fall Newsletter – Information on rain garden, recertification and Cranbury Day will be submitted by members for the township newsletter. Jim Gallagher will prepare an article regarding the role of septic systems. Chairperson Rogers suggested including a short article on the upcoming election Public Question #2 to help explain what it is and that it will be on the upcoming ballot.

ANJEC Conference – Chairperson Rogers and Teresa Vaccaro attended and reported on the “Green in 17” information that was given at the conference. The “Green in 17” pamphlet can act as a guide to help elected officials with accurate information on environmental challenges.

**APPLICATIONS** – None to report.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

With no further business, Paul Mullen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim Gallagher. By a unanimous vote of all members present, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

## **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 October 16, 2017.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 16th day of October, 2017.

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Debra A. Rubin, Secretary