

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
PARKS COMMISSION
February 22, 2016**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The special meeting of the Cranbury Township Parks Commission was held in Town Hall, 23A North Main Street, Cranbury, N.J., Monday, February 22, 2016, 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 February 18, 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, Thomas Weidner, chair of the Cranbury Township Parks 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

Thomas Weidner, Chris Parker, Joan Smith, Michele Kemper, Lisa Rue, Ellie Sitrin and Sally O'Grady were present. Julie Hardaker was absent.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Barbara Rogers, Environmental Commission chair
Jim Gallagher, Environmental Commissioners
Paul Mullen, Environmental Commissioner
Patty Janowicz, resident

NEW BUSINESS

Parks Commissioners reviewed the township parks and preserves.

Village Park – Hope to install a volleyball court and a tennis wall. The tennis nets too low. Mr. Weidner reported that the Rec Commission last year discussed a potential dog park, but that has been dropped, as well as a slab of cement for skating.

Also there used to be a path around the park; suggestion for a GPS map of the circumference for walking routines; ask Mikey Frost to include this as part of the signage for Village Park for his Eagle Scout project. Mrs. O'Grady mentioned that the Girl Scouts are mapping Heritage Park for their Silver Award.

The rain garden has a quarterly clean up schedule now. Plants will be replaced and Dr. Rogers noted the garden may take a couple years to mature.

The Annual Stream Clean Up with the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed is set for April 16.

Heritage – Hope is for some picnic tables in the grove near the Centennial Fountain and one over near Stockton Drive; a park sign is desired; the playground area will be expanded.

Memorial – A donated bench may be placed on the bank on the west side of the dam.

Millstone – A goal of paving a path around the perimeter was removed from the Parks Goal list.

Barn Park – A park sign is desired.

West Fields – A proposed small-sided soccer field to be “moved” from Millstone to Town Center near proposed new library site. Rec Commission is working on it and will walk off the measurements.

Cranbury Brook Preserve – Milkweed will be planted for a butterfly garden near the grasslands. (State is creating milkweed butterfly gardens throughout the state.) The kiosk will be updated with information on monarch butterflies. Idea floated of allowing a class to fill the kiosk annually with artwork of nature. Kiosk on Main Street has been updated and is enjoyed by many passers-by.

Fisher – Landscape architect will review this new path with evergreen trees – South Main to Old Cranbury Road.

Hagerty – Link from South Main to Fisher; sidewalks end on South Main so need to walk on road to the Fisher property, then cut across to Hagerty. EC trying to connect as many paths as possible; Boy Scout will blaze trail for Eagle Scout project and has obtained necessary approvals.

Cranbury Walking Trail GPS existing and proposed trail map reviewed. Heritage paved trail will be added. Suggestion to delineate between paved, non-paved and handicap accessible.

Reinhardt – Trees have fallen and need to be cut; parking lot shored up efficiently by DPW with new gravel; paths still pretty clean. A few more blazes may be painted on the trees. Mr. Weidner commended the EC for their work and efforts in this Preserve.

Shadow Oaks/Millstone – Parks Commission looking at how to get around in there internally.

Unami Woods – Trail will be rerouted through a fallen tree to enable hikers to get closer to the Cranbury Brook. A second entrance may be created off of Wynnewood.

Clean Communities Act – Linda Scott, Recycling Coordinator, has grant money to pay for an 8th Grade clean up project. Dr. Rogers asked Parks Commission if they could suggest areas for them to clean. Village Park area not cleaned in the stream clean up was suggested, as well as the little walkway on Maplewood. Another suggestion was to clean up Main Street of candy wrappers after Halloween and the Memorial Day parade.

Sustainable Jersey in Schools –

A student-run school Green Team is forming to advance sustainable practices in Cranbury School. A Girl Scout is installing a refillable water bottle station, with plans to educate students about using filtered water over bottled water and on where plastic bottles go. There is an anticipated meeting with school Green Team and the EC. The EC is teaming up with school wellness committee. A school garden is in the works and a geocache project with the school is underway.

Dr. Rogers spoke for the EC activities. For the annual Meiss Award this year, the teachers will select a student who shows interest and participation in sustainable practices at the school.

Environmental Commissioner Andy Johnson is spearheading an update of the ERI through a grant through Sustainable Jersey. Data and 30 maps will be included. The ERI will be on line after it is approved for referral by developers.

Cranbury Arts Council – Annual Fundraiser in the Cranbury Brook Preserve in May; artists will be painting, visitors will be walking the trails. Environmental Commissioners will be docents to talk about the Preserve and the Brook.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, Thomas Weidner, seconded by Christine Parker, thereupon adjourned the meeting at 8:05 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 Parks 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 22, 2016.

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

Wendy W. Borg, Secretary