

**MINUTES OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

September 18, 2023

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 Tuesday, September 18, 2023 at 7:00PM.

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 January 6, 2023, of this meeting's date, time and place, and the agenda was mailed to the news media, posted on the Township bulletin Commission, mailed to those requesting personal notice, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Chairperson Paul Mullen called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Mullen, Michael Cargill, Becky Mathers, Jason Mildenberg, and Theresa Vaccaro were present. John Krasting and Josh Kohut were excused, and Jessica Hess and John Reinfelder were absent.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Dr. Barbara Rogers, Township Committee Liaison and Brendan Hanson, Parks Commission Member

MINUTES

Commission Member Vaccaro reported that a correction needed to be made to the July 17, 2023, minutes. Under Sustainable Jersey Jennifer Schneider is a representative of Solar Landscape, not Community Solar. Commission Member Vaccaro also wanted a brief description of what Community Solar is added to the minutes. Chairperson Mullen inquired if there were any other edits or changes to the July 17, 2023 minutes. Hearing none, on a motion by Chairperson Mullen, seconded by Commissioner Mildenberg, the July 17, 2023 amended minutes were approved by all members present.

REPORTS

Township Committee Liaison Report

Township Committee Liaison Dr. Rogers reported on the TC meeting held on September 11, 2023.

Development Review Committee Report

Commission Member Mildenberg reported on the DRC meeting held on September 7, 2023.

Planning Commission

Commission Member Mildenberg reported on the Planning meeting held on September 7, 2023.

Parks Commission

Commission Member Hanson reported on the Parks meeting held on September 13, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS

Preserve Management

Walking Trail Maintenance

Chairperson Mullen reported that the Cranbury Brook Preserve does not need much cleanup, but the Eagle Scout Trail and the Reinhardt Forest Preserve Trail still need to be cleaned up. Chairperson Mullen reported that the Boy Scout Bridge is in bad shape and needs to be repaired, that many boards on the bridge need to be replaced. Chairperson Mullen reported that the meadow area of the Hagerty Property is scheduled to be mowed again and that he sent an email to DPW requesting that only the Pin Oaks Loop trail should be mowed until Shade Tree Commission Chair Kathy Easton puts together a mowing schedule for the DPW to follow. Township Committee Liaison Dr. Rogers reported that she presented the TC with the EC's recommendations and is waiting for their decision. Commission Member Mathers and Dr Rogers reported that upon walking the Pin Oaks Loop Trail, they came across approximately 10 big holes along the trail that need to be flagged and filled in. Commission Member Vaccaro reported that a resident complained on Cranbury Day that the Unami Walking Trail was impassible. Chairperson Mullen suggested that Members of the EC take time to walk trails and report to the entire group if trails need maintenance and to mark any problem areas.

Cranbury Brook Preserve Trailhead

Chairperson Mullen reported that Delpha Georges, the Girl Scout Coach, advised that there is no signage for the trailhead from the parking lot. Chairperson Mullen suggested moving the trailhead and adding more signage. Commission Member Mildenberg suggested adding another trailhead with new signs will be more efficient than moving the existing one.

Sustainable Jersey

Community Solar

Township Committee Liaison Dr. Rogers reported that the 800 spots on the Solar Landscape website are all filled except for the low to moderate income spots. Township Committee Liaison Dr. Rogers reported that Cranbury Housing will notify residents from the low to moderate income of the Community Solar program. Commission Member Vaccaro reported that Solar Landscape Representative Jennifer Schneider stated that there are seven new projects in the works for Cranbury Township.

Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping

Chairperson Mullen reported that he and Township Committee Liaison Dr. Rogers attended the Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping class presented by the DEP. Chairperson Mullen stated that DPW Superintendent Jerry Thorne is the Stormwater Program Coordinator and is expected to take the lead. Township Committee Liaison Dr. Rogers reported that the DEP would send a representative to train individuals on how to use equipment and maps. Chairperson Mullen reported that Cranbury Township has until January 2026 to complete the mapping. Commission Member Mildenberg reported that mapping needs to include the private sector as the stormwater drains into public sectors. Chairperson Mullen reported that the EC will provide assistance in getting volunteers.

Township Committee Liaison Dr. Rogers reported that the Township Engineer is not involved in this project and any questions need to be directed to Jerry Thorne.

Cranbury Day 2023 recap

Chairperson Mullen reported that all winners of the alternative to plastics raffle have been notified and instructed to pick up their item at Town Hall.

Scout Projects

Cranbury Brook Preserve Kiosk

Chairperson Mullen provided an update on Eagle Scout Kona Macallister's behalf who was not in attendance. Chairperson Mullen reported the Kiosk should be completed by end of September and that Mayor Ferrante would be signing off on the project.

Girl Scouts potential project

Chairperson Mullen reported that Delpha Georges, the Girl Scout Coach is interested in turning the pollinator garden in Cranbury Brook Preserve into a Monarch Waystation. Chairperson Mullen reported that once a proposal is written up it will be presented to the Environmental Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Budget

Chairperson Mullen reported that Budget was emailed to Committee Members and if members have any suggestions to email him.

APPLICATIONS

No applications.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, Commission Chairperson Mullen requested a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commission Member Mildenberg. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09PM.

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 September 18, 2023

Donna Wyckoff

Environmental Commission Secretary