

Cranford Environmental Commission
Cranford Township Municipal Building
8 Springfield Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016-2199
<http://www.cranford.com/ccc/index.asp>

Cranford Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 4, 2010
7:30 PM
Cranford Township Community Center
220 Walnut Avenue
Cranford New Jersey 07016
Room #204

Attendees: Nelson Dittmar (Chair), Carol Berns, Ann Darby, Dave DesRochers, Don Ehrenbeck, Lynda Feder, Steve Jandoli, John Hrebin, Ron Margolis, Ana Pinto, Matt Polsky, Mary Reilly, Daniela Shebitz, Mark Smith,

1. **Minutes.** The minutes from the December 7, 2009 EC meeting were accepted.
2. **Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Reviews.**
 - a. The Board of Adjustment hearing on the 12 Park Drive application has been carried over to January 11. The application was revised to eliminate the proposed driveway, but our concerns remain the same. The variances can be granted only if there is a hardship, or is a benefit to the community, neither of which is the case. Burden of proof is on the owner. Nelson will update and revise our previous letter and Don will attend the meeting.
 - b. The application of the contract owner of the house located on 118 Alden St on block 188 Lot 5 was denied. He threatened to build one large, long structure (as permitted by zoning) on the 57' by 176' lot if he is not permitted to rebuild existing structure.
3. **Old Business**
 - a. **Sustainable Jersey**
 - Joe Belko from PSE&G will give his presentation about energy audits to the Township Committee next Monday.
 - There was a Green Team meeting held on December 15. The next meeting will be on February 10.
 - Mary Reilly will attend the meeting of the School District's Environmental Education Committee to suggest they take advantage of some of the state proposals to save money in their plans to replace roofs

and heating systems. There is a plan to collaborate with the schools on the anti-idling program. It is hoped that some press/buzz be generated by enforcing the program with the bus company. Mary will also speak with Walnut Avenue Principal Angelo Paternoster, Danielle Speranza, and perhaps Lt. Van Bergen.

- Nelson announced that there would be Community Energy Outreach Training workshops held on five nights in January and February. Sustainable Jersey, NJ BPU, and ANJEC sponsor these. Mary and Nelson said they thought they would attend the meeting on the 27th Hackensack Meadowlands Auditorium. There also will be a Webinar on February 17.
- There was some discussion of the anti-idling program. The Post office is an ideal anti-idling spot. Wayne Orshak (postmaster) may work with us.

b. Solar Energy

- May Li has met with the Assistant Engineer, Sandra, but not with the people at the pool. County is considering a solar program. The School District is putting on new roofs without solar energy. They will be “solar ready” roofs. Although the bond referendum for the roofs and heating systems has been passed, it would be worthwhile to explore the possibility of saving more money than they are already saving on the roofs. Perhaps we should get the kids or PTA involved. We should contact Mary Sudiak, the Board liaison.

c. Annual Report

- There were no comments on the draft of Annual Report distributed to Commission members. Nelson will issue it and will write a press release and send it to the Cranford Patch and the Chronicle. It will be posted on My Green Cranford.

d. Rahway River Association

- There will be presentation on January 27. Other ECs from communities along the river will be invited. There will be group discussion on common issues that affect the watershed. Everyone from the EC is encouraged to attend. Send information about the meeting to My Green Cranford.
- Dennis Miranda will give a lecture at the Community Center on native plants March 11th.

e. Clean Energy Program

- Clean Power Choice Program is being discontinued.
- Per the ANJEC Report in a section called the Clean Energy Corner (CFL Program), we can get \$200.00 for holding an event. We applied for the

CFL distribution at the Riverwalk, and have not gotten it yet. Nelson followed up and was assured that we will get it.

- Nelson arranged for CFLs to be sent to Cranford Family Care for distribution with holiday food.

f. **My Green Cranford**

- Dave passed around the final version of the publicity flyer. 500 copies will be printed.
- The newsletter will be issued on Saturday. Send news items to him.

g. **Plastics (no. 3 to 7) recycling**

- Mark Smith, Nelson, and Warren Hehl will meet with the recycling company. Mark mentioned that funding from Clean Communities Program will not cover the cost.

h. **Wednesday Morning Club** – Nelson gave a presentation on energy and money savings ideas to about 25 members of the Club on January 6.

i. **Invasive species program** – nothing to report.

4. **New Business**

a. **Goals for 2010**

- Nelson discussed the goals that had been distributed prior to the meeting. It was suggested that a goal be added for strengthen our partnership with the Board of Education. It would be good if a Board member came to EC meetings and vice versa. Nelson will call Mary Sudiak and then perhaps Mary Venditti to increase the partnership.
- Partner more with the Chamber as well as the DMC.
- Add Rahway River Association project and working regionally to goals.

b. **Flip Your Lid For Art**

- As part of our sponsorship of this project, we will drill holes in the lids. It was decided to do this on January 13 and 14 at 7:30. Ann Darby will coordinate this. The installation of the project will probably be in late January.

c. **Green business**

- Green fair on earth week is stalled. There was little interest at the last discussion. The Art show is the weekend of June 13 (6/11, 6/12, & 6/13). This would be a good time to start a green fair. Kathleen Prunty is interested in promoting green businesses.

- A Chamber of Commerce award for Green business was discussed. There should be criteria that determine if one business is “greener” than another is.
- d. **ANJEC Commissions’ Course** – Monday, March 1 in Vineland; Saturday, March 13 in Morristown, and Saturday, March 20 in Lawrence Township. A Webinar will be scheduled at a later date.
- e. **Meeting schedule for 2010** – Schedule was distributed prior to the meeting. There were no comments.

f. **Other Items**

- It was discussed that the EC should consider recommending to Kenilworth to put a green (permeable) strip down the middle of Kenilworth Boulevard to calm traffic. The right person to ask is the county engineer. .
- Look at putting trash traps in the river and maintain them (clean them monthly). Mark will bring it up with the Flood Advisory Committee.
- It was suggested to put a rain garden behind municipal building. There were questions about the need to maintain it once it is build.
- It was decided to have a table at the Street Fair on Sunday May 2. Nelson will confirm the date with Bob Hoeffler.

Submitted by Mary Reilly