

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
Tuesday, January 4, 2011
7:30 PM
Cranford Township Community Center
220 Walnut Avenue
Cranford New Jersey 07016
Room #204

Attendees: Carol Berns, Nelson Dittmar, Chair, Steve Jandoli, Lynda Feder, Daniela Shebitz, Don Ehrenbeck, Ana Pinto, Ron Margulis, Ed O'Malley (Township Committee Liaison), Mary Sudiak, John Hrebin, Debbie Walker, Michelle Walbaum (Patch)

The meeting was called to order by Nelson Dittmar at 7:45 pm.

1. **Minutes.** The minutes from the December 2010 EC meeting were accepted. Note was also made of the new Roster with new members.
2. **Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Reviews.**

We discussed a request for a variance for a house on Pawnee Road. The owner is putting an addition on the rear and adding to the 2nd floor – a total of an extra 22 feet. The increase in impervious surface will be approximately 150 feet. The EC decided to follow the Township Engineer's recommendation.

3. Old Business

- a. Goals. Nelson, Linda, Ana and Ann met with Dan Aschenbach and Ed O'Malley on December 18th to discuss EC goals for 2011. The following items were discussed:
 - Permanent preservation of Conservation Center woodlands. This property is in the Public Zone but not protected by Green Acres. The Township will have to apply for Green Acres funding to be protected. The EC representatives discussed having the Township Committee subdivide the Public Zone into the part used for recycling and the other section (woodlands). The Township Committee can do this by resolution.
 - Investigate whether the preservation of four acres of woodlands behind the Verizon property is possible. The EC discussed making contact with

Verizon to see if this can be done. Steve Jandoli will discuss with Andy Kalnins

- Open Space tax. Dan A. was amenable to this possibility. This tax is outside the 2% cap. Money raised by the tax (usually around \$.01 per \$100 assessed value) can be used to help retire debt on the Solomon Schechter property, among other things. The Township Committee would have to pass a resolution and by mid-August and the County Clerk would need to be notified of the referendum to put it on the ballot. A subcommittee of the EC of Steve Jandoli and Lynda Feder was set up to work on this.
- Invasive species. Kathy Murray has been proposed as a member of the EC to work on this. There is a scout project proposed to address this.
- Energy Audit of Municipal Building. Nelson needs the electrical information for the Municipal Building assembled to proceed on this.
- Rain barrel program. Kathy Murray can do a program (JV with HPC or Rahway River Assn.) in the Spring.
- Township wide composting program. Ana is looking into this.
- Master Plan recommendations
 - Rahway River Greenway. Don is interested in pursuing this.
 - Energy Efficiency goals for municipal fleet. Ana has recommendations but needs current fleet information. Ed will look into getting this information.
 - Anti-idling laws. The signs are in. Mary R. is coordinating with the Township Police on some of them.
- Conservation and Renewable Energy Task Force. Nelson convinced Dan to reappoint the task force but it still needs to be done. Alternative energy suppliers need to be looked into.
- BPU program. There is some question about what still exists.
- Promote usage of My Green Cranford.
- Continue to work with the Rahway River Association to promote regional projects.
- School District's Environmental Education Committee. We will continue to support this. Mary S. reported that the Cloud Institute is accepting applications until February 18th for its new session. Mary will email the information.

b. Annual Report. Green Fairs - Ana will contact UCC to coordinate this year's Green Fair. The Kean University Earth Day Green Fair was also discussed. EC had a table at that fair. Ron M. suggested that the annual report include mention of the cards created for My Green Cranford. Nelson will do a press release summarizing the Annual Report.

c. Sustainable Jersey.

- Energy audit. The Commission agreed that Dave could put results on My Green Cranford. The contractor has to issue a bill, and then we'll file for reimbursement from the State. The Township also has to spend money for the recommended improvements.
- Green Business Recognition program. Debbie Walker discussed this. 15 out of 16 businesses which submitted applications have been certified. The mayor has approved them. Debbie will do publicity. We will look to the Chamber of Commerce to present the certifications.
- Green Team leader. This is still open.
- Banner. Lynda is waiting for the logo from Mary R. to get the banner done. The banner can be hung at the Community Center.

d. My Green Cranford. Steve sent an item on the NJ law to recycle e-waste.

4. **New Business**

A discussion was held regarding the January 25th DMC business meeting. Debbie and Nelson will present the Green Business certification materials at this meeting. The EC will also provide materials on composting and recycling plastics 3-7.

The next meeting will be February 7th. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Submitted by Carol Berns