

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, February 1, 2010
Cranford Township Community Center
220 Walnut Avenue
Cranford New Jersey 07016

Attendees: Nelson Dittmar (Chair), Carol Berns, Ann Darby, Don Ehrenbeck, Lynda Feder, Steve Jandoli, John Hrebin, Ron Margolis, Matt Polsky, Mary Reilly, Daniela Shebitz, Mary Catherine Sudiak

Note: Mary Catherine Sudiak from the Cranford Board of Education is now a liaison to the Environmental Commission.

1. **Minutes.** The minutes from the January 4, 2010 EC meeting were accepted.

2. **Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Reviews.**

Don went to a Zoning Board meeting. The 12 Park Drive application has been withdrawn. ANJEC water/wetland information pamphlets will be ordered, with current ordinance requirements.

3. **Old Business**

a. Sustainable Jersey

i. Anti-idling Campaign.

Mary Reilly spoke to the Police Department concerning signage to ensure that it is ok to send an anti-idling campaign to the Township Committee.

School Bus Idling: A few years ago, companies were contacted and told of the anti-idling law. This did not appear to stop idling, however. Don suggested putting a fine or penalties into contracts. Mary Sudiak stated routes are bid on an annual basis and we can look into adding no idling onto contracts.

ii. Mayor's Wellness Campaign

In Cranford's Fitness Center, there are lists of people using the gym. The Green Team hopes to get them to agree to participate.

iii. Tree Program

We need to find out about tree canopy cover for Cranford. The community forestry plan exists but we need an estimate of canopy for the town. Daniela agrees to help with estimates if necessary – will await direction from Nelson.

iv. Lightbulbs

Mary reported that 10, 10 year-old girl scouts aim to get 212 households to sign the ENERGY STAR Pledge and use CFLs.

v. PSEG Presentation to Township Committee on January 11th.

Nelson and Mary arranged for Joe Belko of PSE&G to present the Direct Install Program, encouraging an energy audit to be conducted for the town. The Plan passed and was written up in the Chronicle. PSEG will start the audit soon.

vi. Status of launch of updated program: New Sustainable Jersey Program coming

Requires 150 points as opposed to 100, but it might be easier to get points.

vii. Green Business Awards

Mary suggests establishing guidelines for Green Business award in Cranford. Mary will go to the DMC meeting suggesting more than one award (or multiple certificates) and present criteria for green awards.

viii. Green Team meeting schedule for February 10, 2010

b. Solar Energy

i. Presentation to Township Committee on January 25.

Matt, Nelson, and Mary met with May Li, the solar energy distributor. She presented her proposal to the Township Committee. Proposal was to put solar panels on Centennial Avenue Pool to heat water. Concern over roof structure was voiced at the meeting.

Did not seem to be a successful effort.

ii. Union County Improvement Authority (UCIA) meeting on January 13.

Each community is invited to complete a survey about buildings and consultants will be sent out to determine if the building is eligible to be part of the program. Program involves low interest tax-exempt bonds and will be competitively bid for vendors who will install solar panels on government buildings.

Towns that are selected will get reduced energy costs estimated at 20%. The vendors will get a 30% investment tax credit and Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs).

The Cranford Library decided to fill out the survey.

iii. Meeting with Bob Carfagno, School System business officer on January 26, 2010.

Mary R, Mary S, and Nelson met with Bob. Some schools will put new roofs on by the start of the next school year. Roofs will be white (as opposed to black) and structurally able to support solar panels. Bob said he would submit the survey noted above to UCIA.

iv. PSEG is putting LED lights in street lights and solar units are being attached to telephone/utility poles.

c. Annual Report

There was good publicity of the Annual Report in the paper and online versions of the Chronicle as well as the Alternative Press. It will be included in a Green Team/Environmental Commission article in the Cranford Patch as well.

d. Education

Cloud scholarships offer free training in sustainability for teachers who then share information with the schools.

e. Rahway River Association presentation on January 27.

i. Dennis Miranda resigned as Executive Director. Now the Rahway River Association consists only of volunteers. Emile DeVito presented at the January 27 meeting about deer and vegetation.

ii. Steve Jandoli presented the Rahway River Greenway Plan. Steve emphasized that we can learn from South Orange's Plan for Watershed Management. \$1.2 million in Congressional appropriations was granted to South Orange to restore the east branch of the river, including recontouring the riverbank. They are eradicating invasive species, putting down mats, and will do instream work.

f. Clean Power Choice and Change a Light Program

i. Community Energy Outreach training sessions were sponsored by Sustainable Jersey and ANJEC. There are many incentives for schools and individuals.

Ann: suggested one of our goals for this year can be how to get money and tell residents how to get rid of unneeded things (such as refrigerators) and get money for it.

ii. Energy Day, or Energy Fair idea introduced
Ron suggested combining an energy fair with a street fair in Cranford (perhaps May 2nd).

iii. ENERGY STAR pledge.

Since last Earth Day, we got 60 people to take the Pledge. People can sign up every year.

g. My Green Cranford

Newsletter came out in the last few days and the little signs for businesses to display have been printed.

h. Plastics (no. 3 to 7) recycling meeting was on January 26

Nelson met with Warren Hehl, Wayne Rozman and John Pallitto of Great Northern Recycling. Agreed to do 3 to 7 recycling at no cost! Six month trial basis will start at the Conservation Center.

i. LEED-EB Committee will meet on February 10.

j. Flip Your Lid for Art Work Project

Great progress was made and the art work has been installed at the Community Center. It was mentioned in the Chronicle and will be in the Patch

k. Invasive Species Program

Doing well with the Eagle Scouts. Also, planning a neighborhood education program Watershed Friendly Property Management Guides (NJDEP) may be donated to be distributed to residents along the River.

l. Nelson made a presentation on energy savings ideas to the Wednesday Morning Club on January 6.

4. New Business

a. Presentation of 2010 Goals to Township Committee on February 8th

Nelson will go to the meeting

b. ANJEC Commissions Course- Monday, March 1 in Vineland; Saturday March 13 in Morristown, and Saturday, March 20 in Lawrence Township.

c. ANJEC Report might pick up on Cranford's No Net Loss of Trees and Rake for the Planet accomplishments for their next newsletter.

d. Green Everything Expo – Mercer County College on March 20.

Meeting adjourned

Minutes respectfully submitted by Daniela Shebitz