

Cranford Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 3, 2010
Cranford Township Community Center
220 Walnut Avenue
Cranford, New Jersey 07016

Attendees: Nelson Dittmar (Chair), Ana Pinto, Lynda Feder, Mary Reilly, John Hrebin, Steve Jandoli, Carol Berns, Mark Smith, Mayor, Janet Hopkins, Green Team Member

Meeting was called to order by the chair.

The minutes for the April 5 meeting were accepted.

Sustainable Jersey/Green Team - The next meeting is May 13 at Hanson House.

- Energy Audit status – This was approved by the Mayor and now will go to the state for review. After state approval, RFP is sent out by the town.
- Green Fair held in conjunction with UCC was held on April 29th. Ana is inputting pledges gathered.
- Tree Canopy Goal – Daniela Shebitz and a colleague prepared a report. There was some confusion as to the data used and Nelson will clarify with Daniela as to whether there is more recent data available. Nelson has proposed that the EC set a goal of maintaining the current canopy percentage. Matt Polsky (via email) and Steve Jandoli both proposed setting goal to increase canopy coverage. After discussion it was decided to amend the report to advocate for increasing the canopy in parkland and along the river corridor and to maintain in all other areas. The report was approved as amended by Nelson to reflect the above.

Clean Power Choice/Change a light – There is a snafu with the website in that it is not reporting the number of pledges. This will be addressed by Nelson. Nelson will be setting new goals for 2010-11. Nelson reported that we had received \$200 from the Clean Energy Power for our participation with Green Market Fundraising at last May's Riverwalk event. The monies will be used by the Township as an offset to our budget.

Earth Day Fair at Kean University – Nelson and Mary participated and gathered pledges.

MY GREEN CRANFORD – Dave Deroschers is looking for articles for monthly newsletter. Lynda Feder will submit information about Rahway River Association activities, Carol Berns will send information about the Community Gardens, and Janet Hopkins will tell about National Bike month.

Green Business Awards – Nelson handed out a proposed Green Business recognition Sheet. Applicants will complete. Judging procedure needs to be clarified. Mark Smith suggested that decals be considered for windows of the businesses that qualify.

Energy Committee/LEED Committee – A meeting of these two committees was organized by Sandra in the Engineering Department and held on April 14. The ENERGY STAR rating on the Community Center was 57 and needs to be 75. Lighting upgrades will be done and light sensors will be installed. There will be an Energy Audit done of the Community Center Building. Mary Sudiak reported that the new school roofs will contain “white reflective materials”. Specs are in and the BOE has bids out to complete the work.

3-7 Plastics recycling – Nelson working on this!

Rahway River Greenway – Nelson read an email message from Don Ehrenbeck who he could not attend tonight's meeting, but he is continuing work and hopes to have something to discuss at the September meeting.

RRA Spring/Summer programs were announced

New Business

- Mark Smith discussed the condition “Old Peppy” and reported that the Twp. Engineer recommended against spending at least \$10,000 to stabilize the tree as he feels that the probability of failure is high. The EC agreed with the Engineers recommendation.
- The Invasive Species project is underway. Eagle Scout candidate, Kevin Swan will remove invasives in Hanson Park and develop a brochure to be distributed to property owners who live along the river. He is being mentored by Daniela Shebitz and Lynda Feder. It was suggested that the Kevin be invited to the September meeting.
- The new Master Plan document has been posted on Cranford.com. Nelson will ask Dave to post a link to the report from MY GREEN CRANFORD site.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Feder