

Cranford Environmental Commission
Cranford Township Municipal Building
8 Springfield Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016-2199

Cranford Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 7, 2011
7:30 PM
Cranford Township Community Center
220 Walnut Avenue
Cranford New Jersey 07016
Room #204

Attendees: Nelson Dittmar, Chair, John Hrebin, Steve Jandoli, Bill King, Frank Klapinski, Lynda Feder, David DesRochers, Mary Reilly, Kathleen Murray, Ed O'Malley (Township Committee Liaison), Daniela Shebitz, Mary Sudiak, Kathy Lewis

The meeting was called to order by Nelson Dittmar at 7:35 pm.

1. Minutes of October 3, 2011 were approved.
2. Maria Harris will be dismissed from the Commission for nonattendance. Don Ehrenbeck will be appointed by the Mayor to fill the unexpired term.
3. Nelson discussed Commission budget discrepancy that needs to be addressed and corrected.
4. Discussed Zoning Board application for a pool variance on Manor Avenue. Pools are considered impervious cover. Issue was distance from house. We asked in our comments what was being done to mitigate the increase in impervious surface.
5. Historic preservation ordinance to be presented to the Planning Board by the Historic Preservation Commission to establish criteria for historic designation and period of review to determine historic significance of homes slated for demolition.
6. Stormwater policy group met, decided to hold off on further work to get direction from new Township Committee. Group attended regional flood control meeting on October 21. Group needs to meet again to prepare recommendations. Various stormwater management methods were discussed.
7. Mary Sudiak gave a report on Cloud Institute for sustainability issues and the Cranford school system. A two day sustainability education workshop is being given on 12/7/11 and 12/8/11.
8. The Board of Education will be applying for a Safe Routes to School grant.

9. Environmental Education Committee met on 10/20/11 to discuss ways to reduce waste and increase the number of waste free lunches. Also discussed energy use reduction. Classrooms have recycling containers, composters on site at the high school and Orange Avenue and Hillside Avenue Schools.

10. Discussion of two letters to the Editor based on article in Cranford Chronicle discussing flood control at October's Commission meeting.

11. Discussion of flood control funding sources such as the Army Corps of Engineers. Commissioner O'Malley said report on dikes estimated a cost of \$15-\$20 million to repair. 140 homeowners have approached FEMA about home buyouts or elevations. There was a discussion of various issues and options on flooding. There will be a presentation by the Army Corp on November 21.

12. Tree Advisory Board wants to do a new tree inventory for the town and the Birchwood property. There was a discussion of trees and power lines and tree loss. Steve Wardell of the DPW will be assigned responsibility for trees.

13. Government Energy Aggregation, Energy Efficiency Grants and Energy-efficiency for municipal fleet, nothing new to report.

14. Rahway River Greenway, no report or update.

15. Rake for the Planet, snowed out but town is participating.

16. Kathy Murray and Nelson attended a presentation by the Chair of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission about their Calculating the Value of Nature study concerning tree coverage in the town. The study is posted on their website, bh-ec.org

17. ANJEC Congress on 10/15/11. Attendance was less than previous years. ANJEC is considering options. There was a discussion on lack of time to attend weekend events due to work and family commitments.

18. Green Business Program stickers still being worked for businesses.

19. My Green Cranford web site renewed for another three years.

20. ANJEC Capitol Day, 12/2/11 in Trenton. There will be an opportunity to meet with legislators to discuss environmental issues.

Next Environmental Commission Meeting: Monday, December 5, 2011 at 7:30 PM at the Cranford Community Center.

Submitted by Steve Jandoli