

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, March 1, 2010
7:30 PM
Cranford Township Community Center
220 Walnut Avenue
Cranford New Jersey 07016
Room #204

Attendees: Carol Berns, Nelson Dittmar, Chair, Dave Des Rochers, Steve Jandoli, John Hrebin, Lynda Feder, Ann Darby, Ron Margolis, Mark Smith, Ana Pinto, Don Ehrenbeck, Mary Catherine Sudiak, Mary Reilly, Jennifer Ebert – UCC, Ivan Crego - UCC

1. **Minutes.** Mary Sudiak corrected the minutes from February pointing out that white roofs were being looked into, but this was not a commitment. As corrected, the minutes from the February, 2010 EC meeting were accepted.
2. **Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Reviews.** Nothing to report.
3. **Old Business**

a. Sustainable Jersey Municipal Certification Program.

Community Gardens at Walnut Avenue School. The Green team will be meeting with this group.

The Girl Scouts will have a Clean with Green Challenge on March 25th. They will distribute the CFLs at this event.

86 people have signed up for the Mayor's Wellness Campaign.

Mary R. is trying to activate the Green Business Program and will contact the Chamber of Commerce. Lynda F. suggested attending Chamber of Commerce meetings.

The Green Drinks event on Feb. 24th was well attended.

Municipal Audit. Has been turned over to PSE&G. Nothing new to report.

There will be a Rain Garden program on April 19th at Hanson Park, from 7 PM to 8:30 PM. Madeline Di Nardo, the Union County Extension Agent will do the program.

Tree and Woodland Management. Nelson asked for information from the chair of the Tree Advisory Board and got a negative response. Nelson is looking for an electronic copy of the tree inventory to do a canopy report and come up with a goal of tree coverage in town. Mark Smith will look into it. Mary R. will contact Daniela about doing the canopy report.

The Local Source ran an article about Union's certification as a Sustainable Community.

ANJEC held a Webinar describing how Sustainable Jersey's program links into BPU's Clean Energy Program.

b. Clean Power Choice. We are up to about 86%. Not too many people are signing up. The program starts over on April 22nd. Part of the Girl Scout program on March 25th is to get people to sign up for this program.

c. My Green Cranford. Ron had cards printed out, which were passed out at the meeting. Ron will send the electronic file to Mary Sudiak for insertion in School District mailings. The UCC Environmental Club will put them out at the Club Fair. Some will be put out at the library, Community Center, Hanson Park Bulletin Board and table at the Municipal Building.

d. Plastics Recycling 3-7. The township is waiting for cost estimates to see if this is implementable.

e. LEED/EB meeting will be held March 2nd.

f. Presentation of 2010 goals to the Township Committee went well.

g. Invasive Species. A local Boy Scout will be doing an Eagle Project for invasive species removal and will distribute literature about it to homeowners on the river. Lynda and Daniela are working with the Scout.

h. Nelson distributed the ANJEC Resource papers.

i. Rahway River Association. Native Plants program will be held March 11th at the Community Center. Emile DeVito will present. There will be a Lenape Park hike on March 20th with Frank Budney.

j. Deer Study. Mike Rediger has proposed fencing off a 30 ft by 30 ft area to do a study on the effect of deer on plants. One proposed spot is on the South side near High Street. Another proposed spot is on the North side near the Conservation

Center. The idea is to provide support for deer management – and provide the data to the County.

k. Mike Rediger is proposing a Riverkeeper for the Rahway River in Cranford.

4. **New Business**

a. Time of Decision bill. The Township Committee passed a resolution vis a vis the decisions of the Planning and Zoning Boards to be governed by the rules in effect at the time of the decision.

b. Union County College Environmental Club. Ana and Nelson met with Jen and Ivan to discuss projects for this organization to undertake. They are proposing a Green Fair and speaker series. They are looking into either a rain garden or community garden for land owned by the College which is not used. They will be discussing recycling and food composting. They are looking at doing an urban/solar garden at the Elizabeth campus. For Continuing Education, they are proposing retraining people in green jobs areas. They also have an anti-idling issue with the bus at the College. The EC will assist the UCC Environmental Club in its projects.

c. Mary R. made a presentation to Temple Beth El which was well received.

d. The ANJEC Commissioner's Course has dates in March.

e. Nelson got an email on My Green Cranford – there is a family looking for an Earth Day project.

f. Clean Air Council hearing – will be held by DEP on April 14th in Trenton to discuss air pollution control strategies for NJ.

g. There was discussion about why trees were removed on Miln Street between the convenience store and the Dankowsky insurance agency.

h. Cranford Patch had an article on Nelson's presentation to the Township Committee.

i. Mary Sudiak reported on items pertaining to the Board of Education. Applications have been submitted for the Cloud Institute. Anti-idling messages have been put in the newsletter. Union County has looked that the schools for an audit.

j. The Rahway River Cleanup will be April 24th – 5 locations. 9 AM to 1 PM.

j. Don Ehrenbeck handed out material and conducted a discussion regarding a proposed Rahway River Greenway in Cranford. He was encouraged to keep working on the idea.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Berns