

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, October 3, 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, Frank Klapinski, Lynda Feder, Don Ehrenbeck, David DesRochers, Mary Reilly, Kathleen Murray, Ana Pinto, Ed O'Malley (Township Committee Liaison), Mary Sudiak, Debbie Walker, Kathy Lewis

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

1. **Minutes.** The minutes from the June 2011 EC meeting were accepted with one change. Mary Sudiak requested that item 3.j. be changed to read that Cranford is one of three towns that were selected to receive a grant from the Cloud Institute.
2. **Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Reviews.**
 - a. Site Plan reviews. Nelson reviewed 11 applications over the summer – most not significant -- including a storage unit on Commerce Drive, a parking waiver for Jeff's Landscaping, 3 decks/pools/hot tubs that needed waivers, and wall signs. There were 2 applications for waivers of the setback ordinance for front stoops. Nelson commented on an application for a new driveway, recommending mitigation for loss of pervious surface.
 - b. There were 11 resolutions of memorialization mainly concerned with the above mentioned variances. Nelson also informed the EC that he insured that Riverfront's plans indicated they will be certified under the Energy Star program.
3. **Old Business**
 - a. Green Businesses. Debbie reported 2 businesses were awarded certification in September – Land Identity (home business owned by Gregg Spadaro) and Garretson Financial. There are 2 businesses which will be awarded certification in October – Cougar HQ and Just for Pooches. We also discussed the means to get a

sticker printed. Debbie will see if Weaver Printing will donate the stickers. EC's budget is in a state of flux due to retirement of Warren Hehl.

b. Flood follow-up.

There will be a Rahway River conference at Union College on Oct. 21st with other municipalities in the Rahway River basin. One of the mayor's goals is to increase storage capacity (such as Lenape and Birchwood). Under the Blue Acres program, people who are interested in having their properties acquired can make application. We also discussed recommending tools for changes that an individual homeowner can make on his or her property to help protect against flooding. Steve and Frank K. will come up with a position paper on this. Ed said that the Army Corps will be providing a report on the status of the dikes soon.

c. Birchwood development. There was a discussion about whether the developer would have to comply with the tree ordinance. Ed said the Tree Board will be doing a tree inventory. Ana mentioned that an aerial inventory can be used.

d. Governmental Energy Aggregation Utility. Nelson and Ana have been appointed to this board. There have been no recent meetings. They plan to have a sustainability presentation.

e. Business Recycling. The town provides a letter to businesses along with a pamphlet telling them they have to recycle. Three choices: (1) take to recycling center (2) see if Great Northern will pick up their recycling (3) do private recycling.

f. Energy Efficiency Grants. Nothing new. Solar panels are being installed on the library and community center.

g. Energy efficiency goal for municipal fleet. Ana will be working on this.

h. Verizon property. It is possible that Verizon found a use for the building. Steve will follow up.

i. Rahway River Greenway report. Don worked on it over the summer but computer crashed. Ed said there may be some money for this – Riverfront developer has committed to supporting it.

j. Township Committee has talked to the County about help on Solomon Schechter property to reduce some of the debt.

k. Sustainable Jersey. Nothing new on energy audits. Anti-idling has been kicked off and schools have supported it. 32 signs put up around town. With respect to

the community garden, it was suggested that the \$350 collected be used for garden next year.

- l. Clean Power. Nelson sent email about Energy Star rebates. New green Energy pledge this year – go to My Green Cranford to pledge.
- m. My Green Cranford. Will publicize Rake for the Planet. Last Saturday in October and 1st Saturday in November. Nothing new on cost of Environmental Commission page.
- n. School District items:
 - Composting. Compost bins built by a teacher were installed at the High School, Hillside, Orange, and Lincoln schools.
 - School District is moving forward with Education for Sustainability at the Cloud Institute. Cranford is 1 of 3 districts in NJ selected to participate.
 - No Styrofoam recycling yet but Carfagno intends to follow through.
 - Carfagno interested in looking at sensors for some of the schools. Ana said money is available through Smart Start.
 - Rebecca Hoeffler requested Cranford develop safe routes to school. The Board is supporting it.

4. **New Business**

A Climate Change meeting was held last summer organized by Phil Morin. The ANJEC Congress will be meeting on October 15th. Mary Reilly will be speaking.

Dave DesRochers will send email on Al Gore's Planet Reality Project.

Nelson announced that Linda MacMenamie resigned and Carol Berns would take Linda's spot as a regular member.

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

Submitted by Carol Berns