

Environmental Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2024, 7:30 PM

Via Zoom

Attendees – Ron Margulis, Rich Salls, Steve Jandoli, Pat Vogler, Dana Friedman, Zach McCue, Ben Cohen, Mary Sudiak, Carol Berns, Jay Stevens, Lauren King, Brian Teasdale, George Collins, Kevin O'Brien, Mike Vendetti.

December 2023 Meeting Minutes Approved

Applications - none

Memorializations – 410 Orchard Street (fence)

Current Business

ANJEC Grant: Dana - Sign for pollinator garden in Lincoln Park is complete; unveiling to be scheduled in the spring

Trees Working Group Update: Ben – Collaboration with the Shade Tree Commission; Start planning for the fall canopy event.

Board of Education: Lauren, Mary, Pat and Ben - Activities to discuss with the administrator include:

- Maintenance of and construction at Board of Education buildings
- Environment club at the HS
- Environment-related field trips, speaking opportunities
- Sustainable Jersey schools certification and grants
- Interns from the high school to the Environmental Commission

Social media: Pat is keeping up the great work

Website redesign: Zach will lead the committee; need more volunteers

Planning Board update from Steve

Rutgers Water Resources – reaching out to Hollie to arrange a meeting for project next steps.

New Business

Goals for 2024

Carol proposed project on electronic vehicle charging centers.

Mary suggested working with the Cranford library on the sustainable library initiative.

Lauren suggested addressing the ordinance that requires blacktop umm hmm to be used for driveways.

Ben suggested a repeat of the tree canopy project perhaps working with the garden clubs in the fall.

Pat suggested following up on the Army Corp of Engineers projects for the Rahway River.

Tina proposed work on pollinator gardens throughout the Township.

George suggested stricter enforcement of idling laws and ensuring that the landscape plans for 750 Walnut are adhered to.

Ron suggested closer collaboration with the county and Carol said her son is now in a position to coordinate activities. Will set up a call.

There was also a discussion about library exhibits, mosquitoes, climate change science, and the Mayor's Wellness campaign.

Feb 2024 Cranford Environmental Commission meeting

Feb 15, 2024

Attendees: Ron Margulis, Ben Cohen, Mary Sudiak, Dana Friedman, Kevin O'Brien, Michael Venditti, George Collins, Brian Teasdale, Victoria Brady, Terrence Curran

Minutes

Zoning variances for a multi-apartment building on Lexington Ave discussed - application for a three-story facility with four apartments and an office on North Avenue, seeking variances for impervious surface coverage. Questions on the effectiveness of the proposed stormwater management system and requests proof of its ability to remediate rainfall in the location. Regarding a project under review, there was some skepticism about a claim that a product can remediate 40% of water, asking for proof and suggesting that certification may be necessary.

Dana mentioned an upcoming unveiling event and seeks updates from the group on the date and whether the town can help with a sign.

Environmental grants and projects - Discussion on upcoming meetings and grant applications with Cranford community members.

Sustainability initiatives and grant applications.

Ben Cohen: No new updates on grant application, but hoping for a more methodical approach this round to plan and prioritize projects.

The mayor's wellness plan has not been updated in years, and the township could work on implementing it.

The website redesign project is underway, with two potential designers identified and a meeting scheduled for next week.

Landscaping projects for municipal properties.

Terry shared 5 ideas for landscaping projects in the township, including a rain garden on Burnside Avenue and a pollinator garden near Sherman Park. He also proposed a municipal fleet policy to encourage the township to buy electric vehicles and develop an electric charging station, which would be environmentally friendly and economically beneficial.

Sustainability projects for a high school and library.

Ideas for sustainability projects at the next township workshop, including properties for a high school project and collaborations with the library for renovations.

Terry is interested in collaborating with the township to make the library's renovation project as sustainable as possible, including using sustainable materials and plantings.

Sustainability initiatives for a library and community center.

Discussion on potential sustainability initiatives for the township, including landscaping and green spaces, and reducing carbon emissions from tractor trailers.

Need research on how other municipalities are approaching sustainability initiatives and shares ideas with the group.

Environmental projects and training.

Lauren suggested organizing a committee to work on various environmental projects, including a pollinator garden and coordinating with the mayor's wellness campaign.

Terry provided guidance on what the council would or wouldn't be interested in working on, and Ben mentions a grant proposal due by February.

ANJEC is a resource for training and educational opportunities for environmental commission members.

Action Items

Send letter to zoning board with feedback on North Ave project impervious surface concerns and request for validation of proposed mitigation system.

Draft letter to school superintendent requesting meeting with EC subgroup (Lauren, Mary, Ben) to discuss sustainability initiatives. Send to Ben for review.

Create spreadsheet to track progress on EC project proposals and solicit member participation.

Submit grant proposal for pollinator garden to Xerces Society by Feb 26 deadline.

Research best practices for municipal green fleet policies. Share findings with Terry.

Put resolution approving canopy project grant submission on agenda.

Compile list of potential sites for pollinator garden and identify location near high school. Share list with Ben.

Discuss potential collaboration on library renovation sustainability features with Mayor.

Discussion on next meeting being in person.

March 2024 Cranford Environmental Commission meeting

March 21, 2024 via Zoom

Attendees: Ron Margulis, Steve Jandoli, Mary Sudiak, Dana Friedman, Lauren King, Kevin O'Brien, Michael Venditti, George Collins, Brian Teasdale, Victoria Brady, Terrence Curran, Rich Salls, Tim O'Brien, Paul Trader

Minutes

During the meeting, the following topics were discussed:

1. Meeting Notes: The meeting notes from the previous month were accepted without any questions or issues.
2. Planning and Zoning Boards: The commission provided advice and submitted notes on several applications in front of the planning and zoning boards. The applications included revisions to plans, impervious surface reduction, and landscaping suggestions.
3. Garden Update: The garden sign has been put up and the QR code for the website has been shared. The commission discussed promoting the garden on social media and potentially creating a collage of pictures for the Facebook page.
4. Rain Garden: A clean-up was conducted at the rain garden, and another clean-up and planting session is scheduled for April 20th. The commission is also looking for funds to purchase additional plants for the rain garden.
5. Board of Education: The commission has a meeting scheduled with the Board of Education to discuss collaboration on various environmental initiatives, including providing advice on building projects, offering assistance in schools, and influencing the curriculum to include climate change education.
6. Website Redesign: The commission is in the process of selecting a designer for the website redesign. They are reviewing other environmental commission websites to gather ideas and plan to create an outline of the website's tabs and content.
7. Annual Report: The annual report for 2023 to the Township Committee has been prepared and reviewed. The commission will submit the report by the end of the month.
8. Goals for 2024: The commission discussed the goals for the year and assigned lead persons for each goal. They encouraged members to sign up for multiple subcommittees and contribute to the projects.
9. DPW Support: The commission discussed the need for DPW staff to be trained in maintaining rain gardens. They will inquire about the status of a DPW staff member taking a course on rain

garden maintenance.

10. Mosquito Control: The commission discussed organizing a seminar to educate the community on environmentally friendly ways to control mosquitoes. They plan to build and distribute mosquito buckets of doom and are considering charging a nominal fee to cover costs.

11. Introductions: New members of the commission introduced themselves and expressed their interest in contributing to the group's initiatives.

12. Base Camp Team: The commission mentioned a county-wide program called Base Camp Team, which aims to connect environmental commissions and green teams in the area. They will attend a meeting to learn more about the program and potential collaborations.

13. In-person Meeting: The commission discussed the possibility of having an in-person meeting in April or May to allow members to meet face-to-face. The date and location will be confirmed.

Overall, the meeting covered updates on ongoing projects, discussed new initiatives, and encouraged member involvement in various subcommittees and goals for the year.

April 2024 Cranford Environmental Commission meeting

April 18, 2024 Cranford Community Center

Attendees: Ron Margulis, Steve Jandoli, Mary Sudiak, Carol Berns, Jason Stevens, Pat Vogler, Brian Teasdale, Steven Meyers, Terrence Curran, Rich Salls, Nelson Dittmar

Minutes

Approved March meeting Minutes

Applications

107 Hillcrest Avenue – Encouraged to incorporate a rain garden, dry well or other stormwater remediation system/device

41 Meeker Avenue – No action

15 Oneida – Submitted note on impervious surfaces

Memorialization

- Wonder building agreed to add native species to landscaping as suggested in December of the previous year.

Project Updates

- Spreadsheet with project updates to be circulated, including new individuals interested in supporting various initiatives.

Intern Introduction

- Hannah, a high school intern interested in environmental science, introduced.

EV Charging Stations

- Site visit to parking garage with EV charging stations noted.

- Identified need for better signage and communication regarding station locations.

Union County Study

- A study by Union County identified a person for communication regarding EV charging.

Tree Canopy Project

- Flyers distributed for tree sign-ups, with a goal of 200 trees and funding from various sources.

Pollinator Gardens

- Discussion on the status and promotion of pollinator gardens, including signage and public engagement.

Library Display

- Environmental Commission's display at the library for April, with challenges in presentation and photography.

Sustainable Library Initiative

- Progress on getting certified and coordinating with other libraries.

Website Redesign

- Plans to find a designer for the website redesign, with a budget from the Wells Fargo account.

Partnership with Board of Education

- Discussion on sustainability initiatives and lack of consideration in the \$90 million plan for schools.

Army Corps of Engineers Project

- Update on the Rahway River project, with a draft environmental assessment expected in June.

Mosquito Control Event

- Plans for an event to educate on environmentally safe mosquito control and making "mosquito buckets of doom."

Social Media Activity

- Interest in a leaf blower ordinance and tree canopy project.
- Suggestions for climate change education on social media.

Idling Enforcement

- Meeting planned with the chief of police to discuss anti-idling enforcement around schools.

Planning and Zoning Board Updates

- Quiet on the planning board front, zoning board seeing more action.
- Discussion on the 750 Walnut tree removal issue and legal proceedings.

Township Committee Updates

- MX-4 stormwater green legislation being tailored for Cranford.
- Discussion on fees and structure to prevent indiscriminate tree cutting.

Upcoming Activities

- River cleanup, Arbor Day tree planting, rain garden cleanup, and native perennials distribution planned.
- Environmentally safe mosquito control event scheduled for June 4th.
- World Environment Day movie showing considered for June 5th.

New Business

- Discussion on the theme for World Environment Day and potential grant application for river restoration.

Centennial Rain Garden

- Awaiting a plan and approval from engineers for the rain garden installation.

May 2024 Cranford Environmental Commission meeting

May 16, 2024 Virtual

Attendees: Ron Margulis, Steve Jandoli, Carol Berns, Ben Cohen, Lauren King, Vicki Brady, Jason Stevens, Pat Vogler, Paul Trader, Dana Freidman, Zach McCue, Terrence Curran, Rich Salls, Nelson Dittmar, Michael Venditti, George Collins.

Minutes

Approved April meeting Minutes

Planning Board Applications

320 Prospect Ave subdivision adjourned to July 17th due to incomplete stormwater management and tree replacement plans

502 Riverside Ave addition approved after EC recommended increasing stormwater system capacity

Discussion

Progress updates on various initiatives like electric vehicle charging stations, tree canopy project, pollinator gardens, mosquito control project, website redesign, engaging with schools and Board of Education

Discussions on new stormwater management rules, tree removal ordinance, idling laws enforcement

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Looking into better marking the existing South Ave charging station

Exploring potential new charging locations based on county EV study

Tree Canopy Project

Project website/form open until May 26th, around 150 tree requests so far

Awarded \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey grant

Attending grant award ceremony on May 29th

Pollinator Gardens & Mosquito Control

Lincoln School pollinator garden looks great after recent volunteer weeding

39 out of 50 mosquito control buckets claimed, distribution event upcoming

Website Redesign

Proposed outline with sections like About, Initiatives, Resources, Events etc.

Mostly reorganizing and refreshing existing content

Aiming to launch by September

Board of Education Engagement

Contacts established for curriculum, internships, environmental clubs

Discussed stormwater management projects on school properties

Offered to do school assemblies on environmental topics in new year

Army Corps Projects

No recent status updates found, will follow up

Local Media & Social Media

TV35 interested in filming upcoming rain garden installation

Social media accounts growing, around 800 Facebook followers

Idling Laws

Plan to do outreach campaign with signage and messaging

DEP has existing anti-idling resources to leverage

New Stormwater & Tree Removal Rules

New ordinance being introduced requiring permits for private tree removals

Prescribed list of approved replacement trees, mostly natives

Next Steps

Coordinate with police captain on idling laws outreach campaign

Finalize website redesign content and engage designer

Attend Sustainable Jersey grant award ceremony on May 29th

Assist with native plant distribution event on May 18-19

Review proposed tree removal ordinance details

Follow up on Army Corps project status

June 2024 Cranford Environmental Commission meeting

June 20, 2024 Live

Attendees: Ron Margulis, Steve Jandoli, Ben Cohen, Jason Stevens, Pat Vogler, Terrence Curran, Michael Venditti, George Collins, Danielle Burke (intern).

Minutes

Approved May meeting Minutes

Planning Board Applications

73-91 Myrtle Street – Stormwater management plan

Application Extension

496 Centennial Ave – 18 months

Discussion

Plastic utensil reduction ordinance

Marta Young from Clean Water Action presented on efforts to pass local ordinances in New Jersey to reduce single-use plastic utensils. She discussed the financial and environmental benefits, shared examples of ordinances passed in other towns, and offered to provide sample ordinance language and educational materials to help Cranford implement a similar policy.

High school food waste composting

The group discussed a new food waste composting initiative at the local high school, funded by a grant. They plan to set up a compost bin in the school courtyard to collect and process food waste.

Tree canopy expansion

Ben provided an update on the tree giveaway program, which received over 200 requests for 625 trees. They plan to fulfill as many requests as possible within their budget. The group also discussed opportunities to partner with the Board of Education and other organizations to expand the tree canopy.

Pollinator gardens and rain gardens

The group discussed the status of existing pollinator gardens and rain gardens in the town, including maintenance needs and potential structural issues. They also explored ideas for adding new pollinator gardens in strategic locations.

Website updates and media outreach

The group reviewed plans to update the environmental commission's website and discussed opportunities to contribute articles or content to local media outlets like the Westfield Leader newspaper and TV35.

Idling enforcement and education

The group provided an update on their collaboration with the local police department to enforce anti-idling laws and educate the community, including plans to share information through various communication channels.

Tree Canopy Project

Awarded \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey grant

Ron attended grant award ceremony on May 29th

Pollinator Gardens & Mosquito Control

Lincoln School pollinator garden looks great after recent volunteer weeding

39 out of 50 mosquito control buckets claimed, distribution event upcoming

Website Redesign

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Board of Education Engagement

Contacts established for curriculum, internships, environmental clubs

Discussed stormwater management projects on school properties

Offered to do school assemblies on environmental topics in new year

Local Media & Social Media

Social media accounts growing, around 800 Facebook followers

Next Steps

Coordinate with police captain on idling laws outreach campaign

Finalize website redesign content and engage designer

Review proposed tree removal ordinance details

September 2024 Cranford Environmental Commission meeting

September 26, 2024 Live

Attendees: Ron Margulis, Mary Sudiak, Steve Jandoli, Nelson Ditmar, Jason Stevens, Pat Vogler, Dana Freidman, Carol Berns, Zach McCue, George Collins, Lauren King, Terry Curran

Minutes

Approved June meeting Minutes

Applications

16 Commerce Drive – Encouraged the applicant to plant native, non-invasive species of trees and bushes.

320 Prospect Street - As the revised site plans raise as many questions as it answers on potential stormwater increase and has landscaping notes without the required replacement of trees, the Environmental Commission recommended the application be denied.

201 North Avenue West - Encouraged the applicant to plant native, non-invasive species of trees and bushes.

Memorializations

41 Meeker – Subdivision that will decrease impervious surface coverage and increase tree/shrub plantings

605 Linden Place – Garage/driveway plan that will decrease impervious surface coverage

Discussion

EV Charging Stations

Township has 2 stations in parking garage, 1 at library; \$200/month revenue

Township working on parking plan; EV charging to be part of discussion

Missed grant opportunity for electrifying township fleet vehicles

Tree Canopy Project

Distribution on Oct 5-6 at Orange Avenue pool parking lot

181 trees reserved (80 more than last year)

Volunteers needed for offloading (Oct 4) and distribution (Oct 5-6, 10am-12pm)

Website Redesign

Local designer Debbie Lonergan provided proposal

Two options: Duda platform (\$1,450) vs WordPress (\$2,250)

Commission leaning towards WordPress for familiarity and ease of use

Funding available from closed Wells Fargo account (\$5,000)

Sustainable Library Initiative

Progress on reducing paper usage and improving recycling

Exploring sustainable alternatives for events (e.g., reusable banners instead of balloons)

Planning environmental documentary series for spring 2025

Idling Issues

Improvements noted near 750 Walnut Avenue (digital sign, police presence)
Considering outreach to PTAs about idling near schools
Discussing potential for "reminder" placards on windshields

Balloon Usage Concerns

Discussion about excessive balloon use at town events, particularly the Superhero Stroll
Commission considering approaching DMC with alternative decoration ideas

Mosquito Control

Proposal to invite county mosquito expert to future meeting
Exploring alternative mosquito control methods (e.g., attracting dragonflies) to reduce spraying

Next Steps

Confirm October 24th for next in-person meeting at community center

- Follow up with Terry on "Skip the Stuff" ordinance and potential for public comments at town council meeting
- Review township parking plan for environmental impact when available
- Draft email with alternative decoration ideas for DMC events
- Initiate Sustainable Jersey certification process
- Volunteers to sign up for Tree Canopy Project distribution
- Commission members to review website redesign proposal and provide feedback
- Terry to reach out to county mosquito expert for potential presentation

Action Items

Write up post about pollinator garden grant for social media
Dana Friedman

Coordinate w/ Dana on pollinator garden grant social media post
Pat Vogler

Contact Jay re leading Sustainable Jersey certification effort
Ronald Margulis

Confirm Sustainable Jersey cert timing at ANJEC meeting
Ronald Margulis

Send meeting notes, ask availability for Oct 24 meeting
Ronald Margulis

Review Skip the Stuff ordinance, determine meeting for public comments
Terry Curren

Forward township parking plan to Env Commission for review
Terry Curren

Check w/ Ryan Cooper for Army IV project updates
Terry Curren

Talk to Karen (DMC) re alternatives to balloon decor for superhero stroll
Terry Curren

Contact county mosquito control rep about attending future meeting
Terry Curren

October 2024 Cranford Environmental Commission meeting

October 24, 2024 at the Community Center

Attendees: Ron Margulis, Steve Jandoli, Mary Sudiak, Nelson Ditmar, Jason Stevens, Pat Vogler, Ben Cohen, George Collins, Terry Curran, Mike Venditti, Rich Salls, Brian Teasdale, Vicki Brady.

Minutes

Approved September meeting minutes

Applications

None

Memorializations

None

Discussion

Mini Forest Project Proposal

Proposed for vacant township-owned lot on Riverside Drive near Richmond Avenue

Would increase tree canopy and provide environmental benefits

Neighbors supportive; township likely to fund

Potential challenges: maintenance costs (~\$2000/year), requires specific management

Next steps: Present at upcoming township committee meeting

Tree Canopy Project Results

Distributed 188 trees (red maple, tulip, black gum, redbud)

Revenue neutral: \$6300 from residents + \$2000 grant + \$1000 from commission

Increased from 110 trees last year to 180 this year

Considering expanding promotion for next year

Improved logistics with new mailing system

Sustainable Jersey Recertification

Current certification likely expires in 2026

Commission to form committee to prepare application

Aiming for silver certification (currently bronze)

Need to start earlier to allow time for mayor's proclamations and other time-sensitive items

Native Plant Ordinance Consideration

Madison recently passed ordinance for municipal plantings

Requires native plants, preference for straight species

Exceptions for seasonal/temporary plantings

Would prevent further planting of invasive species

Commission to review and potentially recommend to township

Website Redesign Update

Designer selected, waiting on initial payment to begin work
Using WordPress for easier maintenance
Aiming for early 2025 launch of new mygreencranford.org

Rain Garden Projects

Sign for municipal building rain garden ready for installation
New rain garden location being reconsidered due to engineering concerns
Original budget ~\$5000-6000, but engineer estimate much higher (~\$40,000)
Commission members offered to assist with planning once site selected

Sustainable Library Initiative

Planning environmental documentary series for spring 2025

Idling Issues

Discussing potential for "reminder" placards on windshields

Next Steps

- Form committee to prepare for Sustainable Jersey recertification
- Review Madison's native plant ordinance for potential adoption
- Follow up on rain garden sign installation and new location planning
- Attend township committee workshop to support "Skip the Stuff" initiative
- Brainstorm 5 new project ideas for 2025
- Host NJ Watershed Ambassador at next meeting for project collaboration

Action Items

Arrange meeting w/ Board of Education for early Dec. Include Ben, Lauren, Mary
Ronald Margulis

Contact Sustainable Jersey to confirm recertification due date & process
Ronald Margulis

Form committee for Sustainable Jersey recertification. Recruit volunteers
Ronald Margulis

Circulate Madison's native plant ordinance to commission members for review
Pat Vogler

Check on installing rain garden sign in front of municipal building
Terry Curran

NEXT MEETING IS NOVEMBER 21, 2024 - VIRTUAL

November 2024 Cranford Environmental Commission meeting

November 21, 2024 - Virtual

Attendees: Ron Margulis, Steve Jandoli, Nelson Ditmar, Jason Stevens, Pat Vogler, Ben Cohen, George Collins, Terry Curran, Mike Venditti, Lauren King, Brian Teasdale, Dana Freidman.

Minutes

Approved October meeting minutes

Applications

None

Memorializations

16 Commerce Drive – Self storage facility remediates increase in impervious surfaces with stormwater management plan that includes basin storage. Applicant also agreed to avoid removing any mature trees and plant only native and non-invasive trees.

201 North Avenue West – Bank building to be partially demolished and rebuilt with slightly reduced impervious surface coverage.

Discussion Topics

Watershed Ambassador Presentation

Kaitlyn Pinto, AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador for Area 7, presented on program goals and potential collaborations

Focus on promoting environmental stewardship and community engagement

Offered support for projects like stream cleanups, rain barrel installations, and green infrastructure initiatives

Anti-Idling Initiatives

Working with new police chief to communicate importance of not idling in school zones

Developing informational cards to educate drivers about idling laws

Plans to reach out to Union College about student idling on campus

Single-Use Plastics Ordinance

Township committee agreeable to making reduction of single-use plastics in restaurants into law

Commission members to review ordinances from other towns as models

Plan to coordinate with local restaurants for implementation

2025 Project Planning

Invasive species removal from municipal properties and replacement with native plants

Workshop on identifying and removing invasive species for homeowners

Installation of rain garden at Centennial Avenue recreation center

Coordination with schools on tree replacement plans for construction projects

Ongoing Projects

Army Corps of Engineers flood mitigation project: awaiting report release in 2025 for review and comments

Local dredging efforts: Township has budgeted for ongoing dredging projects in identified areas

Next Steps

Commission members to send additional 2025 project ideas to Ron

Pat to connect Ben and Kaitlyn regarding rain garden project feasibility

Develop specific goals for school collaborations before January meeting with Dr. Ruben

Review and provide input on school construction tree removal and replacement plans

Prepare for in-person December 19th meeting at the Community Center

Action Items

Email ordinance language for Blacktop's use for driveways to Terry, Brian, and Ron
Lauren King

Review Ron's tree-focused column draft for Westfield Leader
Ben Cohen

Reach out to college contact re anti-idling efforts, student awareness
Brian Teasdale

Review other towns' ordinances for plastic reduction model, prep for Cranford
All

Create Excel spreadsheet for 2025 projects, incl. carried over & new, assign leads
Ron Margulis

NEXT MEETING IS December 19, 2024 – In person at the Community Center

December 2024 Cranford Environmental Commission meeting

December 19, 2024 – Cranford Community Center/Virtual

Attendees: Ron Margulis, Steve Jandoli, Nelson Ditmar, Jason Stevens, Pat Vogler, Ben Cohen, George Collins, Terry Curran, Vicky Brady.

Minutes

Approved November meeting minutes

Applications

110 Thomas Street - requesting a c(2) variance for construction of a 2-story addition to connect the single family dwelling with the detached garage, expanding the principal structure on the site.

Memorializations

Meeker St

Discussion Topics

Army Corps Flood Control Project Update

- Project authorization cleared Congress and Senate, awaiting presidential signature
- Funding secured for study phase
- Meeting planned for February to discuss town preferences for project options
- Lenape Dam reservoir expansion option removed due to financial/environmental concerns

Blue Acres Program Progress

- \$3.5 million in federal/state funding secured to buy out 5 flood-prone properties in Cranford
- Additional meeting planned for January 28th to engage more interested homeowners
- Commission may have role in ecological restoration of bought-out properties

Styrofoam Ordinance Development

- Plan to introduce ordinance at January 20th town meeting
- Aiming for formal introduction in February and potential passage in March
- Commission members willing to do outreach to local restaurants

2025 Project Planning

- Mini forest project planned by Jason Stevens, potentially seeking grant funding
- Pat Vogler proposing to repeat successful "Bucket of Doom" mosquito control workshop
- Discussing potential native planting initiatives on municipal properties
- Considering educational programming on TV-35 to highlight environmental projects

Student Engagement Initiatives

- Meeting planned with Board of Education superintendent to discuss student involvement
- Potential to formalize student representation on Environmental Commission
- Recent presentation to high school Environmental Club on water quality monitoring

Website Redesign Progress

- Initial planning meeting held, full planning meeting scheduled for following Monday
- Aiming to launch new website in January or early February
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Next Steps

- Send out planning/zoning application details to commission for review by year-end
- Schedule meeting with new police chief to discuss idling enforcement
- Scan and distribute Sustainable Jersey grant project ideas to commission members
- Seek volunteer to lead 2025-2026 Sustainable Jersey certification efforts
- Distribute 2025 meeting schedule and confirm member renewals for coming year
- Plan for increased in-person meeting participation in 2025
- Participate in upcoming Union County Environmental Commission hub meeting (Jan 13)
- Prepare for podcast interview on commission's volunteer engagement successes

NEXT MEETING IS January 16, 2024 – In person at the Community Center