

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
23A North Main Street  
Cranbury, New Jersey 08512**

Barbara Rogers, Chair  
Anna Drago  
James Gallagher  
John Persico  
Andrew Johnson  
Paul Mullen  
John Reinfelder  
Paul Ginoux  
David Marabello

---

TO: Cranbury Township Committee  
FROM: Barbara Rogers, Environmental Commission Chair  
DATE: January 2014  
SUBJECT: Environmental Commission 2013 Year-End Report

The activities of the Cranbury Township Environmental Commission in 2013 are summarized in this Year-End Report.

Membership – The EC had full membership for 2013.

Cranbury Book Preserve – The EC continued the replanting of native plants, the eradication of Bradford pear trees, multi flora rose and other invasive species, and the management of the grasslands. Dr. Rogers taught after school programs for elementary students in the Preserve this year. The kiosk was updated with new information.

Reinhardt Forest Preserve – An open space stewardship grant from ANJEC was awarded to the EC for work on the Reinhardt Forest Preserve, including trail planning, trail construction, sign construction, parking lot improvements, and a trail grand opening. A subcommittee comprised of EC members John Persico, John Reinfelder, Paul Mullen, Barbara Rogers and David Marabello worked in the Preserve to cut a one-mile trail around the perimeter of the property. Also cut were cross trails in the middle. A map of

the property was created using GPS. Trees from the state No Net Loss Reforestation Grant were planted at the parking lot for a border and shade. The Princeton High School Environmental Club also participated in trail clearing. Plans for 2014 include installing signage, clean up of the property and a grand opening celebration.

Environmental Resource Inventory – Led by Commissioner Andy Johnson, an update of the ERI has begun. A proposal from Amy Greene Consultants was obtained, as well as information on a grant from Sustainable Jersey to fund the re-write.

Dam Reconstruction Project – The work began in the fall, and the EC continues to be consulted and updated by the Township Committee on progress.

#### Educational Activities –

The EC continues to provide environmental public education through Cranbury Day activities. In 2013, patrons to the booth were given information about recycling and water conservation. A storm water drain model was displayed and demonstrated to educate the public about storm water management and run-off. Commissioners Barbara Rogers, John Reinfelder, Andy Johnson and Paul Ginoux manned the table and talked with the public throughout the day.

Alfred Meiss Environmental Appreciation Award – The EC again sponsored an award for Cranbury School 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Entrants were required to describe either the Cranbury Brook Preserve or Unami Woods and how it inspires and is important to them. They shared their favorite place in whatever way they deemed appropriate, i.e. essay, song, photo, poem, etc. A subcommittee of EC members reviewed the submissions using a judging criteria rubric. Student Edward Gu was chosen the winner of a \$50.00 American Express card, out of three (3) entries received. Dr. Reinfelder attended the award ceremony in June and presented the award.

Stream Clean up – The EC participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Stream Clean-up sponsored by the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed in April. Approximately 48 volunteers collected mostly plastic bottles, food wrappers and beer caps. Also found were a coconut and a wood pallet. In total, 61 bags of trash and recyclables were collected, totaling 644 pounds.

Water Pollution Prevention at Cranbury School Car Wash – Initiated and led by Commissioner David Marabello, a project to filter car wash run-off was put in place for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade car wash in the fall. Storm drain filters were purchased and installed for the activity. At the conclusion, the filters were removed and stored for future car washes at the school and the firehouse. Mr. Marabello also created posters and information about car washes and their effect on the environment.

Rain Barrels – The art and science teachers at the school are instructing the students to paint and install the rainbarrels in the school science courtyard.

Articles about EC activities were written by Commissioners and included in the Township's quarterly newsletters.

### Environmental Initiatives

Sustainable Jersey – The township was awarded Bronze level certification by amassing points and completing environmental initiatives, including energy audits for municipal buildings, a sustainable land use pledge, and a natural resource inventory. The Township Committee approved a resolution called the Pledge for Sustainable Land Use, including items such as regional cooperation, transportation choices, natural resource protection, mix of land uses, housing options, green design and municipal facilities siting. The Shade Tree Commission completed two items for certification, the Community Forestry Plan and the Tree Hazard Assessment.

Truck Idling – The EC began an investigation into truck emissions at the warehouses, and car idling at the school. They will apply for a grant to encourage turning vehicles off. The Stony Brook Millstone Watershed wrote a letter in support.

The "Green Team," led by Barbara Rogers, met once a month to discuss environmental initiatives. Mr. Mullen reviewed the municipal energy audit; Dr. Reinfelder worked on the farmland preservation item; Mr. Persico worked on the Environmental Commission item; and Mrs. Drago worked on the ERI item.

EC members Barbara Rogers, Anna Drago and Jim Gallagher volunteered at the town's Farmers Market.

Water Pollution Prevention - The subcommittee met with representatives from Rutgers Cooperative Extension at the firehouse to perform infiltration and soil compaction testing of the storm water swale. They discussed constructing a possible rain garden in the space as well as ideas for minimizing pollution from car wash run off.

No Net Loss Reforestation – In the fall, Phase 2 tree were planted - 390 trees, at the cost of \$390,000 - throughout the township in nine locations, including preserves, parks, Main Street, and the school property. Barbara Rogers continued to participate in a subcommittee to advise the Township Committee on the planting locations for the New Jersey Turnpike Mitigation Project. The subcommittee also advised on tree placement, species choice, watering, soil condition, deer protection and staking.

An application for Phase 3 plantings was made.

NJ Invasive Species Strike Team – Dr. Rogers attended an event at Duke Farms on invasives.

Applications – Numerous applications for development were reviewed, and comments were submitted to the Planning Board and Zoning Board, as appropriate. This year, the JET USA application was considered. The EC continues to monitor state DEP activity.

Development Review Committee (DRC) – Commissioner Paul Mullen served as the EC representative to the DRC. He provided input from an environmental standpoint to applicants seeking land use approvals, in specific JET USA.

Dog Issues – The EC discussed the ordinance requiring maintaining dogs on leash and a possible dog park for the township. They voted to recommend the ordinance remain as is - that dogs must be on leash in the Preserves.