



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
&
GREEN TEAM**

DATE/TIME/PLACE: November 18, 2025 at 7 p.m. in the Borough Hall

	Present	Absent
ENVIRONMENTAL MEMBERS:		
Patty Almberg	<u> X </u>	
David Kraft	<u> X </u>	
Brian Mitchell	<u> X </u>	
Mary Daly		<u> X </u>
Gary Barth		<u> X </u>
Pam Gould	<u> X </u>	
Chris Caslin	<u> X </u>	
Laura Hoogstrate, Alt.	<u> X </u>	
Aditi Puri, Alt.		<u> X </u>
Councilwoman Klodiana Malellari	<u> X </u>	

GREEN TEAM MEMBERS:

Marie Papaleo		<u> X </u>
Laura Hoogstrate, Env. Rep	<u> X </u>	
Chris Leishman		<u> X </u>

, Shade Tree _____

Mary Ann Komar, Rec. Rep. _____ X _____

Elizabeth Brown, School Bd. Rep. _____ X _____

Joanne Aran 5/22/25 _____ X _____

Isabella Gilmour 5/22/25 _____ X _____

Michael Lam _____ X _____

Shu Lam _____ X _____

Ally Matthews _____ X _____

Linda Mei _____ X _____

Karen Glass _____ X _____

Karen Clements _____ X _____

Noah Cole, RDHS Student Liaison _____ X _____

Gemma Staines, RDHS Student Liaison X _____

Attendees:

Ben Yossef

Past Events

Patty asked Joanne to speak about River Edge Day on Oct 5. Joanne stated that we had a lot of people stop at our table and we had a good location. She said that many people inquired about when we would be doing another Styrofoam collection. We also promoted the Sports equipment swap and costume exchange on Oct. 11. She said that having the jar of M&M's and having people guess how many were in the jar was a great draw to our table and that we should continue to do this in the future.

Pam spoke about the Hackensack River Nation and the grant that they were working on and how we had a very short notification of the grant and were not able to participate. And the RE DPW is working on a grant for resiliency.

Patty asked Laura to talk about the Hackensack River sweep on Oct 11. Laura stated that Chris, Pam and Ben (Ori) were there and about 20 volunteers participated in the sweep and there was some land clean up included. She said we were able to launch our new safety boat and it was great. She said that we are using the motor from the old boat and when we purchase a new motor, it needs to have a longer shaft. Laura stated there were many things removed from the river including truck tires, propane tank, sports equipment and balls, siding and tubing from a sprinkler system.

Patty asked Gemma to talk about the Equipment swap & Costume exchange on Oct. 14th. with the Recreation Commission. Gemma stated that it was a success and a lot of people came after school. We had more costumes than sports equipment dropped off. She stated that we took the remaining costumes and sports equipment to a school in Paterson. She also stated that we should try to do it earlier next year, maybe in September. Patty said that the Recreation Dept would like to have another equipment swap in the Spring, maybe in March.

Patty asked Laura to talk about the Bergen Hub meeting in Wyckoff on Oct 27 that they both attended. Laura stated that they discussed Complete Streets. One example of this in River Edge is Continental Ave by the library and Memorial Park. The cement sticks out and lines on the road make it a safer road by bringing attention to drivers to slow down for the crosswalk ahead. Some other towns add greenery to these areas for less run-off.

Patty stated that she had an inquiry from Kathy Drury of the Oradell Green Team about the Christmas decorations along Kinderkamack Road. Patty emailed Lissette who explained that it was Jason from the DPW who ordered new decorations for the holidays and Patty stated that it looks nice!

Patty asked Pam to talk about Skip the Stuff. Pam stated that the letter is complete and ready to be given to our local businesses. Patty stated that Jeongwon (who could not make the meeting) would like to be involved in this program and she would like to get together with her for some more ideas.

Patty stated that many residents are still interested in Styrofoam recycling and have asked about when we are having another collection. Pam said that maybe we could go back to having a twice a year collection with a hauler. Patty said that the hauler is no longer providing this service. Patty stated that Allendale has a shared service agreement with Ridgewood where Allendale collects Styrofoam in 100 gallon bags and brings them to Ridgewood DPW for densifying. Ridgewood

charges \$5 per bag. Patty stated that maybe this is something we could present to the Mayor and Council. Patty stated that we could use a portion of our EPC/Green Team budget money to cover this cost. Patty said we will need to present this to the Mayor & Council to get their input and approval.

Patty asked David to talk about the adopt-a-station program. David stated that we are still waiting for a response from NJ Transit. David said he will reach out to his contact for more information.

Patty asked Gemma to talk about the community garden. Gemma stated she has reached out to the Mayor of Bogota about their gardens and she is waiting to hear back. Her initial conversation with the mayor was that they use 4'x6' plots that residents would use to garden and they are offered on a lottery basis. Patty stated that this is something we should present to the Mayor & Council to see if they would approve of the Green Team looking into this.

Our next EPC meeting January 20, 2026

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 pm