



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION  
&  
GREEN TEAM**

**DATE/TIME:**                      **January 20, 2026 @ 7:30pm**

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

**GREEN TEAM MEMBERS:**

<b>Marie Papaleo</b>	_____	X
<b>Laura Hoogstrate, Env. Rep.</b>	X	_____
<b>Chris Leishman</b>	_____	X
<b>Mary Ann Komar, Rec. Rep.</b>	X	_____
<b>Elizabeth Brown, School Bd. Rep.</b>	_____	X
<b>Ally Matthews</b>	_____	X
<b>Michael Lam</b>	_____	X
<b>Shu Lam</b>	_____	X
<b>Linda Mei</b>	X	_____
<b>Karen Glass</b>	X	_____
<b>Karen Clemments</b>	_____	X
<b>Isabella Gilmour</b>	_____	X
<b>Alison Stephen</b>	_____	X
<b>Liz Schlossberg</b>	_____	X
<b>Joanne Aran</b>	X	X
<b>Avani Dhariwal, Student Liaison</b>	_____	X
<b>Gemma Staines</b>	X	_____

DAVID KRAFT: Stated on December 27th they held an EPS Styrofoam and Christmas light collection and questioned Linda if she would like to talk about that.

LINDA MEI: Advised they got a lot of cars and people were happy they were having another collection and 30 large bags were collected. Stated it would be good if they can do the collection with Ridgewood.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated they discussed getting an agreement with Ridgewood.

LINDA MEI: Advised they are going to work on that this week and they don't need to densify the Styrofoam prior to dropping it off at Ridgewood.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated if everything goes well with the agreement, they can get a regular Styrofoam collection schedule and post that on Facebook. Advised the upcoming events - January 22<sup>nd</sup> there is the Mayor & Council presentation of collection with Ridgewood and January 27<sup>th</sup> Bergen HUB meeting in Rutherford, questioned if anyone is able to attend.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she is not able to attend and advised if anyone is able to attend there will be someone from Saddle Brook Green Team doing a Dark Skies presentation.

PAM GOULD: Stated she can attend.

LINDA MEI: Stated she can also attend.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised it is at the Borough Hall in the old Council Chambers.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated the Junior Prom is in March and questioned Gemma if she was involved in the last prom.

GEMMA STAINS: Stated they decided to put the posters out earlier, along with the boxes and will send out an email, as well as request the Principal to send out an email to all the juniors.

DAVID KRAFT: Advised there is a potential equipment swap with the Recreation Department in March and questioned Mary Ann if she wanted to speak about that.

MARY ANN KOMAR: Stated they are discussing have the swap March 3 or March 10 and they will be discussing that at the next Recreation meeting. Stated people have great things to donate and the more the notice is out in advance the better, it works even though it is on short notice. Advised the only thing they need to figure out is where the left overs go.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated once the date is finalized they can post it on their Facebook page.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Advised the past 2 swaps the leftovers were given to Second Chance Toy Drive.

DAVID KRAFT: Questioned Brian about Second Chance Toys.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Stated he will reach out to Zoey from Second Chance Toys as she hooks him up with a group and will reach out to the Board of Ed. Advised he usually schedules it for the week before or after the River Edge Run.

MEMBER: Questioned if there is an organization that takes non-toys, such as candles etc.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Stated he is sure there is but doesn't know of any particular one.

PAM GOULD: Suggested giving them to organizations who are holding tricky trays, as they accept that stuff.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated they will wait for the date for the River Edge Run, but they usually do the composting during the race and questioned if they want to do that again this year.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised Patty set that up and she was at the race for the composting. Stated the point was to raise awareness but it is a good thing to do, however she will not be available on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated April 27<sup>th</sup> is a Bergen HUB meeting in Glen Rock and questioned if anyone is going to attend.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated it is possible she may be able to attend that meeting.

DAVID KRAFT: Advised sometime in May they will be working with the River Keeper.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised the date is May 2<sup>nd</sup> and it is a river clean-up, not a sweep, so it should be advertised as a river clean-up. The boats will go in at River Edge and come out in River Edge. Depending on the amount of volunteers, the extras can do a land clean-up. Advised they are in the process of scheduling the next sweep, and Oradell has put up some dates, which were in the summer, not in the fall, as the fall dates were not favorable with the tides. The problem with the summer dates is the parking lot is shared with the swim club but offered to bring the dates up and get some feedback.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated USA 250<sup>th</sup> will possibly be having a cleanup across the US and the Committee received an email from this group to see if we want to participate. Advised he thought it was a great idea but wants to get everybody's thoughts.

PAM GOULD: Advised it would be good if the Committee can help participate, even if it's not everybody.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated they need to find out what is required and what day. Stated he will stay in contact with them and let them know the Committee is interested. Advised they are up for recertification for Sustainable Jersey, but they are working on a software

upgrade, so they do not have to do an update in 2026 but feels they may be better doing it anyway to keep track of everything they have done.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated they should take their year-end reports and put everything in that the Committee has done.

DAVID KRAFT: Advised Patty made a suggestion about mailing the letter regarding Skip the Stuff to the establishments they want to target and then have an in-person visit.

PAM GOULD: Stated she agrees and is not sure if their letter is correct, as it is State Law now and their letter stated “voluntary compliance,” so the letter may need to be adjusted.

DAVID KRAFT: Suggested revisiting the letter since it is a State Law now. Stated once they get the EPS Styrofoam agreement in place they can discuss how often they want to do the collection. Questioned if there is anything new they want to do with the Community Garden.

LINDA MEI: Stated they did renovations at Borough Hall and the landscaping was a huge missed opportunity in supporting pollinators and plants that people can use and wished they would have asked the EPC for input and questioned how they let people know the Commission does more than just Styrofoam collection.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated sometimes you need to push your way in and other times it comes towards you, but this time we should have pushed our way into the landscape design. Questioned Klodiana if she has any advice regarding how to go about getting this done.

KLODIANA MALELLARI: Advised the presentation was done by the landscaping company that won the bid and the time to get involved is to get on the agenda when there is a presentation regarding the landscaping.

LAURA HOOGSTATE: Stated the Mayor and Council should invite a representative to be there, as they know what is coming up at the Council meetings.

DAVID KRAFT: Questioned Klodiana if they can make that request.

KLODIANA MALELLARI: Stated she will send something to the Borough Administrator and Borough Clerk and they will let her know what is the right way to do it.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned if anyone knows the reason that space behind Cherry Hill is not usable for the Community Garden.

KLODIANA MALELLARI: Stated she will get back to her as she is aware the Borough Administrator advised what was going on but cannot locate the information.

DAVID KRAFT: Advised he has not heard back from NJ Transit lawyers regarding NJ Transit Adopt a Station, but he will keep on top of that. Questioned what was happening with the townwide composting.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she does not believe there is anything ready to go yet.

DAVID KRAFT: Advised they need a map of the Hackensack River and a Spring update for the kiosks by the boat ramp.

LINDA MEI: Stated she can take care of that.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated he will speak with Karen Clemmens regarding the Library Speaker series, who has run that in the past. Questioned if anything new is happening at the high school.

GEMMA STAINES: Stated nothing new other than the prom boxes.

DAVID KRAFT: Questioned if they should renew the ANJEC membership.

PAM GOULD: Stated she has not used it that much, as she uses the River Nation.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated he will talk to Patty about that.

PAM GOULD: Advised she attended the River Nation and their big thing is Pathways to the River, which they are still working on, with developing more awareness with signage directing you to the river and incorporating art to draw people to the river. Stated they are looking for ideas from towns to connect the pathway to the river. Stated she will ask them if there is some way they can be involved in the Commission's paddle days. Advised they will be having another summit and the cost is \$50, which she would like to be reimbursed for. Stated last year they were late in getting notification of applying for a Grant, but this year she will keep an eye out for that in case the Commission wants to be involved.

MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT MEETING: March 17, 2026