



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	
Joengwon Kim		X

**Attendees: two additional audience members**

Meeting started at 7:32pm

**Past Events**

*January 22* – there was a presentation to M&C for EPS/Styrofoam collection shared services with Ridgewood went well. The Shared Services Agreement was sent to River Edge and is being looked over by the town’s lawyers. Once the review is completed, it will go back to the Mayor & Counsel and hopefully be recommended and ready for approval!

*Jan 27 Bergen Hub meeting in Rutherford* – Linda and an audience member attended. Excellent meeting (day after snowstorm). Presentation on Nigh Sky and keeping the lights off. Leaving lights on affects wildlife in ways we don’t realize. Plan to start sharing this information with the residents of River Edge. We will start posting materials provided on the EPC Facebook site. Also discussed at the meeting was a resiliency grant for Bergen County. Additionally, a potential project for sustainably sourced, wildlife-friendly sunscreen and hand sanitizer.

*March 3 equipment swap with Recreation dept.* Due to rain had to be rescheduled for March 18

### **Upcoming Events**

#### *March 18 - equipment swap*

Will be supported from 3-6pm by Joanne, Linda, and Sue and from 5-6 by Karen Glass. Event is happening on the 18<sup>th</sup>, but it will be very cold and windy. Noted that some of the things that were given at the swap were brought over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance toy drive as a separate section for people dropping toys off to pick up. We will do that again for this year.

#### *March 26- Junior Prom corsage box collection with Delford & River Dell Flowers.*

All information has been dropped off at both Florists and Gemma is handling the high school promotion. Posters are up in the high school and Gemma is coordinating with the middle school. Boxes can be brought to the high school for collection or back directly to the florist.

*April 18 Second Chance Toy Drive – 9am to 1pm...* Board of Ed has reserved the Cherry Hill parking lot for the event. Discussed sending an email to the schools via PTOs / Board and communicating the event via various channels (e.g. Library, Facebook, etc). Brian to send the flier out to be shared with the parents of the Elementary school children and posted on various sites. Noted that the event is intended for lightly used plastic toys that can be cleaned, not plush or soft toys

*April 11 Composting 101 at RE library 10:30-11:30* presented by Source Compost

*April 18 clean up at Historic New Bridge Landing (HNBL) 8-11* as part of NJ 250, multi group activity, same day as the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance toy drive. Volunteers will be split between the two events.

*April 25 River Edge Run - composting* again, we have composted in the past and we plan to do it again. Patty is working on getting that set up for the event. There is NOT town-wide composting at this time, but it has been discussed. Patty plans to attend and collect other volunteers can reach out to Patty.

*April 25 Revolutionary War History* Deborah Powell at RE library 3-4 pm

*Apr 27 Bergen Hub @ 7pm in Glen Rock –* we should have several attendees again.

*Apr 28 Hackensack River Nation Summit @ FDU* from 8 am to 3 pm – Pam is signed up already and it's a full day.

*May 2 Hackensack River clean up* – Official times TBD based on the tides.  
Laura to check with Isiah to confirm. Good chance for volunteer hours.  
It will be at the River Edge boat launch (near the RE pool). Tentatively the times will be 9am to 2pm.

*May 17 Earth Fest @ Overpeck Park* – simply passing information along, no direct connection to the REEPC

*Sep 12 Hackensack River sweep* – time to be determined based on the tides.

### **Discussion**

*Previously discussed...River Edge @USA250* - clean up April 18 at Historic New Bridge Landing, coincides with Earth Day. Eric Model reached out and we are working with Bergen County Historical Society.

*Skip the Stuff (STS)* - letter to businesses - Pam updated the letter per new law STS Rollout - Beyond Plastics NJ will play a key role in helping roll out STS legislation (effective 8/1/26); EPC is planning to help with the communication of the new law. Pam will send the letter back to Lisette to pass along to the M&C. Also, possible educational opportunities to be presented to the public.

*ANJEC* – need to sign up again for this year. We will use part of our budget to join. It also provides possible grant opportunities.

*EPS/Styrofoam* - hopefully we can get on a routine schedule (3 times a year?) once the shared services agreement is signed

### *Community Garden*

There is one at the Senior Residence that Patty is looking into for the Community Garden. Cherry Hill blossom park is another possibility. Bogota has a great garden, but they have recently been unresponsive.

*NJ Transit Adopt a Station* – David; still no update from the lawyers.

*Kiosk by boat ramp* - need map of Hackensack River; Linda has a map and will post it on the board.

*Interested in screening THE PLASTIC DETOX, ?*: It is available on Netflix

If you (or your library) would like to preview the movie and offer a free screening, please contact Lois from Beyond Plastics NJ. Patty has attended the January and February meetings for Beyond Plastics. We may want to add this to an event at the library. Members will watch and determine if it makes sense to proceed.

*Social Media update* – Marie; send any items to be posted as needed. They will go up shortly thereafter.

*Sustainable Jersey* - we are up for recertification in 2026, but they are working on a rebranding/new program, so we do not have to update for this year. Need to wait for the rollout of the “new” program.

Library Speaker Series – Karen is available to contact any Master Gardner’s if we would like them to speak.

Shredding Event – do we need a 2<sup>nd</sup> one? Possible of teaming this with Styrofoam event if we can get that moving in the future. Once the Styrofoam path forward is determined we will reassess how to address this.

From the Public: Is there interest in the REEPC in making a map of what happens in the area; suggestion is to bring that to the Bergen Hub who is in better position to collect and post that information.

Also from the Public: Composting, there is interest but not much information on what we can practically do. How do we find out more about this? There is information on line and the team can circulate what we have found to date.

Adjournment at 8:52pm.

**May 19, 2026 next EPC meeting**

**Environmental Protection & Green Team – 7:30 pm, 3rd Tuesday every other month**

**2026 Meeting dates:**

**Jan 20, March 17, May 19, July 21, September 15, November 10**