



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION  
&  
GREEN TEAM**

**DATE/TIME/PLACE:**      **January 16, 2024 via ZOOM**

	<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	



PAM GOULD: Questioned, since they are bringing the Styrofoam to Ridgefield Park, if she should still coordinate the Styrofoam collections, as they cost money, and she would need to start planning now for April.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned if there was a free Styrofoam collection for the County this year.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised it was the shredding event that was free and she reached out to Lisa Hessman of DPW, who was going to find out the dates for that collection. Stated if they get a date in April they can coordinate a collection with the Styrofoam.

PAM GOULD: Questioned if you would like her to coordinate that collection.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated yes, she can check with Jason and Lisa and see what the BCUA free shredding date is. Advised they received an email from Northern NJ Community Foundation which is starting a Hackensack River Coordination and is looking for local support for the Hackensack River vitalization. Advised their first meeting is January 23 from 9:30-12:00 at Fairleigh Dickenson, in case anyone can make the meeting.

CHRIS CASLIN: Stated it sounds like this is going to be an ongoing program, this is just the introduction meeting.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised January 29<sup>th</sup> is the Sustainable Bergen HUB meeting. Stated Laura and herself usually attend but she is not available and questioned if anyone else would like to attend.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she may be able to attend.

PAM GOULD: Stated she would like to go, depending on the weather.

LINDA MEI: Stated she is available.

PATTY ALMBERG: This meeting is about community energy program grants, which may be a good to get some ideas. Questioned Linda about the event on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

LINDA MEI: Advised on March 5<sup>th</sup> Elaine Silverstein, from the Native Plants Society of NJ, will be at the library to give a speech. Stated she gives different talks, there are 5 programs, and questioned if anyone has a preference what she should ask her to speak about. Advised she talks for free but you can give a donation to the Native Plants Society of NJ. Questioned if they need to pay to have an event at the library.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated the library should be free, but she will reach out to Lissette to ask about giving a donation.

LINDA MEI: Stated she will get a flyer ready and will send it to Marie to put on the internet and the library will also put it on their email.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned Karen if they could do something with Don Torino from the Audubon Society in April.

KAREN CLEMMENTS: Stated she believes he will be available and that he is comfortable with doing a program with children.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised the schools are off April 1-5 and asked Karen if she would check with John to see if he can do a program during that week.

KAREN CLEMMENTS: Stated she will get in touch with him. Advised Cathy Sourborn, a Master Gardener, gives a speech regarding hummingbirds and butterflies and the cost is \$200, if you think that topic would be of interest, she could reach out to her as well.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated that would be good, and if John cannot do that week, maybe Cathy would be available, which would be a great way to start off Earth Month. Questioned Brian about Second Chance Toy Collection.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Advised he has not started anything as of yet, he needs to reach out to the town first to see when the River Edge Run is and then he can reach out to Second Chance Toys.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she will reach out to the new school superintendent to see if they can get another liaison from the school. Advised on April 29<sup>th</sup> there is another sustainable Bergen HUB meeting, the location of the meetings rotates and whoever hosts the meeting comes up with the topic. Stated she was thinking about the July meeting Laura could do the presentation for the storm drain education and art project.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she would absolutely do that presentation.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised July 29<sup>th</sup> is a Bergen HUB meeting date.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Introduced herself to Kat, who is the watershed ambassador, and asked Kat if she would like to introduce herself.

KAT DELMUNDO: Stated she is the watershed ambassador for management area 5. Advised there are 20 ambassadors throughout the State, and they all do field work, community outreach, educational outreach, various presentations and demonstrations, as well as activities in the classroom. Advised she went to Cherry Hill and Roosevelt Schools and gave a presentation about the water cycle and water sheds, which the students and teachers loved. She also does public outreach and table events and will put her information in the chat.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised Tyler reached out regarding the river cleanup for May 25<sup>th</sup>, which is Memorial Day weekend and that is when the pool opens, so she is not sure how crowded the parking lot would be.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned who owns the parking lot by KBG.

KLODIANA MALELLARI: Advised it belongs to the Borough.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised Tyler has the cleanup hours for 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised the swim club does not open until 12:00 p.m., so she does not think there would be an issue with the parking lot.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she thinks they are good for the river cleanup on that day, but as a courtesy they should advise swim club of their plan for the cleanup.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she will email the swim club.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised Kat did the presentations in the schools and those presentations led to the storm drain art contest. Stated she will reach out to both scholls to see how that is going and if they need anything from her and that she will need a couple of judges once they have the entries, as they would like to get them painted in the spring.

PAM GOULD: Questioned if they have picked the next two storm drains to be painted.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised they don't have to locate any more drains, as they are at the 3-year mark and they decided in the beginning of the program that after 3 years the art work would need to be repainted. Questioned Kat if she would be able to connect with the Environmental Action Club or the Science Honor Society at the high school to either give a presentation or ask for some volunteers.

KIERA CASLIN: Stated the Science Honor Society is looking for some guest speakers, so that is a great idea.

KAT DELMUNDO: Stated she is working with her Ecology Professor who has her working with 2 of her classes and she drafted up a program for the entire semester, where each group has their own projects, and they do environmental stewardship training, where they present for one day and the following 2 days they are in the field with the students.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned Kiera if there is any update she wants to share.

KIERA CASLIIN: Stated there is not much going on with the Environmental Club and the Junior Prom is coming up so if you want to do the prom box collection she can reach

out to the junior class representative to see if they would be interested in doing the Prom Box.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned if anyone wants to put a flyer together for the prom boxes.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she can share the old one.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned Noah if there is anything he would like to share.

NOAH COLE: Stated there is not much going on, just to keep him updated with the volunteer events and he will send the information on to those who still need conservation hours.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned if anyone has any ideas to get the kiosks by the boat ramp more populated. Advised Kat about the board at the kiosks and asked her if there is any information she thinks they could put up.

PAM GOULD: Suggested putting up information regarding bird watching or wildlife information, along with poison ivy information.

KAT DELMUNDO: Stated she will be in the Hackensack River Keeper's office and will bring that up with Captain Bill.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned Marie if there is anything regarding social media.

MARIE PAPALEO: Stated to send her information on the Prom Box collection and she can make a flyer and post it on social media.

MARY DALY: Stated there was an interesting article in Consumer Reports on "How to eat less plastic", which was generally informative, and will try to link the article to their site.

MEETING ENDED:

NEXT MEETING: March 19, 2024

