



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION  
&  
GREEN TEAM**

**DATE: January 21, 2025 VIA ZOOM**

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



PATTY ALMBERG: Stated the past event was the pop-up Styrofoam collection on January 5<sup>th</sup> and thanked Chris and Bob for doing the parking lot collection and Brian for helping out at the Ridgewood Park DPW and Laura and Jim for their assistance. Advised they processed 67 pounds of Styrofoam and the County densifier is still in limbo as to how it is going to run as the new DPW in charge is not familiar with the system. Stated that may be part of a discussion at the next Bergen HUB meeting, which is scheduled for January 27 in Ridgewood, which she cannot make it and asked if anyone would like to go. Laura volunteered. Advised the Hackensack River Nation has a summit on February 25<sup>th</sup> and questioned Pam if there is a sign up for that yet.

PAM GOULD: Advised it cost \$40 to attend and questioned if the Borough would pay for the attendance.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she will send Lissette an email and see what needs to be done. Advised March 6<sup>th</sup> is the River Dell Jr. prom and questioned if they should do the prom box collection again.

PAM GOULD: Stated yes.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned David about the NJ Transit Adopt a Station.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated at the last meeting they discussed people that were at the River Sweep were too close to the railroad tracks and he got a name from Lissette for a contact at NJ Transit, who connected him with some people who run the Adopt a Station program. Stated there is an application to fill out and they would more than likely get approved to do some cleanup at both train stations. Stated possibly schedule the cleanup around May when the weather is nicer. Suggested getting the Boy Scouts to help with the cleanup.

PAM GOULD: Questioned if that could be done as part of an Earth Day event, as they have never had an Earth Day event, which is at the end of April.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated April is a busy month for the Commission. Advised if they do some planting or get a bench at the one train station the Commission could do some self advertising on it. Stated for this year they should just do trash cleanup and some general spruce up and see how it goes for the following year.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised she received email about the Bergen HUB Meeting that is being held on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> in Ridgewood at the Village Hall.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned if there is a date that needs to be on the form for Adopt a Station.

DAVID KRAFT: Advised it does not have a date, but he would put down on the application the date they would like to do the cleanup.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised there is one date in May that works for the River Cleanup. Stated the Sweep is planned for October 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am and the only date available in May for a cleanup is May 17<sup>th</sup>. Advised Tyler was concerned about the cleanup as last time they had too many volunteers and not enough boats, but she would suggest doing the cleanup in 2 shifts to get more people out on the river.

DAVID KRAFT: Suggested May 3<sup>rd</sup> or May 10<sup>th</sup> for Adopt a Station.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised May 3<sup>rd</sup> puts it closer to Earth Day.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated he will put in for May 3<sup>rd</sup> as the first option, May 10<sup>th</sup> would be the backup date.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised Tyler mentioned about doing a Walden Pond cleanup at Van Saun Park in April, which would be a good Earth Day event, and it would be held on a weekday.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised she went to the Walden cleanup last year and they cleaned up a lot. Questioned Laura about Storm Water Education.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she has not reached out to the schools yet, as she needs to speak with Jason first. Questioned if anyone has anything they would like to her to bring up with Jason.

PAM GOULD: Stated to ask Jason if they are planning on doing a shredding event in April, and if they want the Commission's help.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated to ask Jason if they applied for a BCUA Shredding Day, as last year was the first time they did that. Advised they will not be doing storm drains this year.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated they will not be painting storm drains this year but Jason had some other ideas and she will reach out to the Watershed Ambassador and the school principals as they can still have a Storm Water Education program in the schools.

MARIE PAPALEO: Stated Linda and herself wanted to paint some more of the storm drains, but the weather got to cold and said maybe they can start again in March or April.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned Pam if she wants to discuss Skip the Stuff.

PAM GOULD: Stated they had suggested starting with a letter from the Mayor to the local businesses and she reached out to Lissette, who told her to have Councilwoman Klodiana bring it up at the Mayor & Council meeting, so it is put on the record. Advised Lissette said she would review the letter, make any necessary changes and put it on Borough letterhead for the Mayor to sign and send out to the businesses.

KLODIANA MALELLARI: Advised that is the procedure to put requests on the record.

PAM GOULD: Advised after the businesses get the letter, the EPC would do their own data collection. Stated David had some other ideas.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated unless the letter needs to be delivered and/or discussed at the Mayor & Council meeting, they will need to help the businesses understand what they need to do, such as asking if the customer wants plastic utensils and condiments. Stated the sooner they meet with the business owners, the better they will be to get that program started, unless they need to wait until it is brought before the Mayor and Council.

KLODIANA MALLANERI: Questioned if other towns were doing this.

PAM GOULD: Advised there are other towns implementing this program, and some towns have Ordinances, but they wanted to try sending a letter to the businesses first.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised there are several towns working on Skip the Stuff and some towns are also trying to certify businesses as Green businesses and thought once this gets going, they need to have a way to let people know the reason why this is happening and possibly have a sign stating the business is a Green business.

PAM GOULD: Stated there needs to be another part to this campaign for educating the public.

MARIE PAPALEO: Asked Pam to send her something that she could put on social media.

PAM GOULD: Stated she will after the Mayor & Council meeting.

DAVID KRAFT: Questioned Klodiana if they have to wait until this is presented to the Mayor & Council before they start talking to the restaurant owners.

KLODIANA MALLANERI: Stated to let her introduce the letter to the Mayor & Council first.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned MaryAnn about the equipment swap and when the recreation's next meeting is scheduled for.

MARYANN KOMAR: Advised she mentioned it to the Recreation Commission and they are all in and they discussed possibly having it at the Middle School and the High School at the end of March early April, but the only concern was transportation, storage and what to do with the leftovers. Advised they thought of having it twice a year with different sports highlighted.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated there are a couple of ways to get rid of the equipment, such as Good Will, Veterans and the running store on Route 4 has a bin for sneakers. Questioned if you would have a certain day to drop off.

MARYANN KOMAR: Stated they would have certain days and hours to drop off and another day and hours to shop.

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

MARIE PAPALEO: Stated to just send her anything you want posted and keep her posted on the popup dates for the Styrofoam collection.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned if David reached out to Noah.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated he has not reached out recently. Advised he would like to get younger support to help with making a video to show how to recycle properly, which could be posted on social media.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised neighborhood composting is coming to Demarest and is charging \$16 a month and more towns are doing it in Bergen County. Stated maybe they can do an education piece first and gauge to see what the interest is in having a neighborhood composting.

MARIE PAPALEO: Questioned if they have any idea where people would go with their food waste and if they were thinking down by the DPW.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she will find out where other towns put their compost bin. Advised there are a few companies that do this, Neighborhood Composting are being used by a lot of towns. Questioned if Laura would want to do a weekend library program.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised she can do a library event on the weekend.

PATTY ALMBERG: Suggested to wait until they have a date for the equipment swap and then possibly have a library program in March. Advised David and herself started on the annual report and would like to get that done by the next meeting. Questioned if they want to meet in person or stay zoom meetings. Advised she would like hybrid.

MARIE PAPAEO: Stated she likes the hybrid.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated he also likes the hybrid.

PAM GOULD: Questioned if they paid their ANJEC dues as she went to a meeting about Resiliency Planning and will send out information regarding that to the Commission.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she is not sure if they did pay. Advised the dues are \$400 and she will ask Lissette about the ANJEC dues.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Stated he will be going ahead with the toy drive. Advised the River Edge Run is the last weekend in April, so the toy drive will be April 19th.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised to use Liz Brown to put out a blast to the schools.

MARIE PAPAEO: Stated at Sustainable NJ they were talking about an initiative to have homeowners use battery operated lawnmowers and leaf blowers, rather than gas, and questioned if this town does that.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised Princeton has banned gas blowers and some other towns as well, but most landscapers use the gas mowers and blowers.

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2025