



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
&
GREEN TEAM**

DATE: March 24, 2025 VIA ZOOM

	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	_____	X
Laura Hoogstrate, Env. Rep.	X _____	
Chris Leishman	_____	X
Mary Ann Komar, Rec. Rep.	_____	X
Elizabeth Brown, School Bd. Rep.	_____	X
Ally Matthews	_____	X
Michael Lam	_____	X
Shu Lam	_____	X
Linda Mei	X _____	
Karen Glass	_____	X
Karen Clemments	_____	X
Noah Cole, Student Liaison	_____	X
Avani Dhariwal, Student Liaison	_____	X

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned Laura if there was anything she would like to share about the Bergen HUB meeting held in January.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised most of the meeting was about the benefits of municipalities being in charge of their own water, which does not apply to River Edge. Stated the Speakers were interesting, and they discussed water restrictions and ways to enforce those restrictions. There was someone at the meeting who worked with Skip the Stuff and she has contact information.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated on April 3rd they will be doing the Sports Equipment Swap and the flyer has been done for that. Advised it is on the Recreation Departments email list and she will reach out to the schools to see if they can send out the notice.

PAM GOULD: Stated she will help with that.

LINDA MEI: Stated she will also try to make it.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated in April 2024 they did a cleanup in Van Saun with Tyler, the River Keeper, and she will reach out to him and see if there is anything the Commission can do this year. Advised Brian has scheduled the Second Chance Toy Drive for April 19, 2025, and the Hackensack River Nation Summit is scheduled for April 22, 2025.

PAM GOULD: Stated, she will be going to that meeting.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised the River Edge Run is on April 26th.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned if she would like to do the compost at that time.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated, she was thinking about doing that; however she will not be available to help.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned where the composting would go afterwards.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she will check into that.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated if Patty could find a place where the compost would go, she would be available to do the collection that day, and then they can advertise for it.

LINDA MEI: Questioned if there is a recycling bin for the water bottles at the River Edge Run.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated they may have a barrel out for recycling.

LINDA MEI: Suggested having the new water business in town donate big water jugs and get paper cups for the water but believes it may be too late to do that for this year.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised she would need to talk to the River Edge Run organizers, but it would be good environmentally and good advertising for the business. Stated there may be time to do that for this year as the River Edge Run is still a month away.

LINDA MEI: Advised she would reach out to the person in charge of the Run.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she will send Joe Ricca an email regarding the water and the composting. April 28th is the next Bergen HUB meeting in Allendale and asked if anyone is interested in going.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she could probably go, but she cannot commit right now.

LINDA MEI: Advised she can go to that meeting.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised Marie was going to try and put a composting program together for the library and asked Laura if she would want to work with her.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she will help with resources and if she can, she will be there, depending on the time of day.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised she reached out to Neighborhood Composting to do the townwide composting. Stated she needs to check with DPW and the Health Department first. Advised May 4th the DPW is hosting a shredding day. Questioned David if he would like to discuss Adopt a Station through NJ Transit.

DAVID KRAFT: Advised they have gotten preapproval to adopt both River Edge Stations by NJ Transit and there is a document he forwarded to Klodiana, as they may need legal to review, before signing. Advised in order to move forward to clean the stations, the volunteers need to go through a zoom training, along with all the proper safety protocols. Advised NJ Transit is looking for the names of the volunteers prior to the cleanup, which is scheduled for May 3rd or May 10th. Stated everyone on the list would have to do the training, whether or not they volunteer to do the cleanup.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned when the training would be.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated he believes the training can be done anytime, as it is by zoom.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned Laura about the Hackensack River cleanup scheduled for May 17th.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised Tyler has not made a sign-up sheet yet, but they would like to open the Registration up to River Edge residents first, then it will be opened up to the Riverkeepers audience. Advised it is primarily a water cleanup.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned what is happening with the storm water education program.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she does not have an answer yet, as she was holding off because she wanted to speak with Jason. Advised Jason did make it so they can do large scale stickers to put on the 2 municipal trucks, but the Watershed Ambassador was not scheduled to go into the schools. Advised she has not heard back to see if a date has been scheduled for the school visits.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned Pam if she would discuss the letter for Skip the Stuff.

PAM GOULD: Stated she drafted a letter and sent it to Klodiana, who brought it before the Mayor and Council. Advised the Mayor and Council were not going to sign the letter, but they were okay with the Commission signing the letter. Stated she questioned Lissette to see what they should do, but she wanted to check with the Commission as to how they want the letter to be signed.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated the signature should be the River Edge Environmental Commission, but he does not have a problem putting his name on the letter.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Suggested doing a flyer for Skip the Stuff that they can give to the businesses to post in their store for the customers to see.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised the Borough Hall will be opening in a few weeks so they will be back to in person meetings, but is not sure if the meetings can be a hybrid.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised Marie asked her, since she was not able to come to the meeting, about the Styrofoam pop-ups. She explained to Marie the Styrofoam collection was doing well, but since the change in politics in Ridgefield Park they have had a hard time getting in touch with them in order to bring the Styrofoam. Questioned if they are in a holding pattern or if the Commission is going to reach out to see if they can use the facility.

PATY ALMBERG: Stated the Commission can reach out to Ridgefield Park.

LINDA MEI: Advised according to the Bergen HUB newsletter, Ridgefield Park was waiting for a coordinator to run the machine.

PATTYALMBERG: Advised next meeting is May 20th.

MEETING ENDED