



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION  
&  
GREEN TEAM**

**DATE: May 20, 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>

**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 Clements</b>	_____ X	
<b>Noah Cole, Student Liaison</b>	_____	X
<b>Avani Dhariwal, Student Liaison</b>	_____	X

AUDIENCE: Joanne Aran - Isabella Gilmour – Gemma Staines

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised they have two public people and asked them to provide their names and addresses.

JOANNE ARAN: Stated she lives at 65 Wayne Avenue.

ISABELLA GILMOUR: Stated she lives in River Edge.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised Isabella and Joanne are going to be new Green Team members and the reason they are not panelist at this meeting is because they will be appointed on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Mayor and Council meeting. Stated they can see what the

Commission is going to talk about and what they have done and are going to do. Asked Mary Ann if Recreation was happy with the equipment swap.

MARY ANN KOMAR: Stated she thinks so, they haven't had an actual meeting since that date, but she thought it went well. Stated they could possibly do another one in the fall.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she hopes they can do another one in the fall and the leftover equipment was brought to the Second Chance toy drive, which went to a school in Paterson. Questioned Brian if he would talk about that.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Advised the organization in Paterson was affiliated with schools like Boys and Girls Club, but not sure how the affiliation worked. Stated the equipment went to people who need it more than River Edge.

MARY ANN KOMAR: Stated the ideal thing would be if they had one day for collecting and another day for everyone to come and shop, however there is no place to store all the equipment. Questioned when they have another sports swap, would the Second Chance Toys be willing to take the leftovers again.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Stated it is worth asking and he can reach out once a decision is made if they are going to do another swap.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated they would love to do it again so maybe they can look at a date in September or October. Advised the next thing regarding past events was the Walden Pond clean up, which is located in Van Saun, and was started last year. Stated she was not able to make it this year. Questioned Brian if everything went well at the Second Chance Toy Drive in April.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Advised it was successful, but they seem to be getting less and less toys every year. Stated they collected a couple hundred toys which went to the Boys and Girls Club in Paterson.

GEMMA STAINES: Stated she was present in the meeting and stated she lives at 780 Elm Avenue.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised Gemma is a freshman at River Dell and had to work on a letter project about composting. Stated she asked Gemma if she would be interested in being a River Dell liaison, which she agreed to. Advised April 22<sup>nd</sup> was the Hackensack River Nations Summit at Fairleigh Dickinson and questioned Pam if she attended.

PAM GOULD: Stated she did attend and it was a full day summit. Advised Captain Bill did his presentation on the Hackensack River Keepers. Stated they discussed how to do better stormwater management planning. Advised the idea behind the River Nations is to promote the river and get more people using and taking care of the river. Questioned if the Commission wants to promote the path down by the river, or the boat launch, to encourage people to be interested in the Hackensack River.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised they have done paddle days the last two summers and they get a decent attendance, even though it is on a weekday, so it does limit the number of people who can attend. Stated on April 26<sup>th</sup> was the River Edge Run and Laura had two 5-gallon buckets for people to compost their banana peels, but the hardest part was letting people know this was going to be happening. Advised both buckets were dropped off and picked up by Neighborhood Composting. Stated she believes it would be good to expand that next year. Stated the Bergen Hub meeting was held on April 28<sup>th</sup> and questioned Linda if she attended.

LINDA MEI: Stated she did attend the meeting and it was mostly about composting. Advised there were 5 speakers and the first speaker was great and when she moved to NJ from Manhattan, she could not believe nobody composts. Stated the speaker looked into what she can do and found 20 people that would compost and eventually more people started to compost.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated more towns are signing up to compost, so it is moving in the right direction. Stated on May 3<sup>rd</sup> the DPW ran the shredding day and oil collection and October 4<sup>th</sup> will be another shredding day. Advised on May 6<sup>th</sup> Marie and Laura ran a composting program at the Library, but it wasn't well attended, so Marie will try to put the information on the town website and on May 17<sup>th</sup> there was a pop-up Styrofoam collection, which filled two cars. Advised Waldwick is doing a collection on July 26, Rutherford is doing a collection on June 21 and October 4 and she will forward that information.

PAM GOULD: Stated there still is a problem with Ridgefield Park and questioned if you want to have a dumpster for the Styrofoam collection so the company can do the densifying.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned Pam if she would want to have the Styrofoam collection in tandem with the shredding, as DPW is going to have a shredding day on October 4<sup>th</sup> so they can look into getting the dumpster for the Styrofoam on the same day.

PAM GOULD: Stated if everyone thinks they should try it one more time, or at least in the interim while waiting for Ridgefield Park to get set up.

LINDA MEI: Advised they spoke about this at the Bergen Hub meeting and Ridgefield Park is working on it and a lot of towns are organizing days for drop-off. States she believes they could have a pop-up and just bring it right over to Ridgefield Park, they would just have to contact the person there to let them in.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised on May 17<sup>th</sup> Laura and Brian were at the Hackensack River Clean-Up.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Stated it was a good day and they didn't do the land cleanup, which made everything go smoother. Advised there were 8 or 10 boats on the water and they got a lot of stuff out of the river.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated Gemma is going to discuss the River Dell Senior Prom box collection.

GEMMA STAINES: Advised she contacted Mrs. Arlak, the River Dell Senior Advisor, who was open about letting her handle the project. Stated she plans on putting a box in the high school to collect the containers and plans on posting flyers around the school.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated they did this program the past few years, some were successful, some were not, as the students were responsible to bring their box back to the florist. Advised Gemma suggested doing a collection box at the school, which makes it easier. Stated she will stop in at both of the florists and explain the change to them. Questioned Linda about the Garden Contest.

LINDA MEI: Stated they could have a contest in July for the flowers and August or September for vegetables.

PATTY ALMBERG: Suggested starting in August until Labor Day for the vegetables and mid-June to start for the flowers.

LINDA MEI: Stated they could do mid-June until the end of July for the flowers and August to mid-September. Advised she will work on a new flyer and she will send to Marie to post.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised the next Bergen Hub meeting is scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> in Hackensack and October 11<sup>th</sup> is the River Sweep with Oradell and New Milford. Questioned Pam about Skip the Stuff.

PAM GOULD: Stated she picked up the letters from Lissette and knows Dave wanted to do a door-to-door to hand them out and discuss the program with them, so she has the letters and is just waiting to see how they want to handle it, either by mail or hand delivery.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she will reach out to Tyler about having the Paddle Day on a Saturday. Advised David has been working on the NJ Transit Adopt-A-Station, which he has gotten approval for, so it is just a matter of finding a date when they can go to New Bridge Landing and the River Edge train station and do the cleanups. Stated she checked out the kiosks by the boat ramp and it looks great, however they can always use more information if anybody has any ideas.

LINDA MEI: Stated Pam mentioned about getting the word out about the walkway and the river, so maybe that is something they can put on the board if there is a flyer about that.

PAM GOULD: Stated she will reach out to the Riverkeepers and see if they have any ideas, because they did discuss River Edge having a boat launch.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated Karen had some great ideas about the library speaker series and maybe they can look at that for the fall.

KAREN CLEMENTS: Advised she should be able to resurrect the list of Master Gardener speakers and asked Patty to let her know when to share the list of current speakers and their topic.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated the summer is probably not a great idea to have the speaker series, but possibly September-October and try to plan it by August so it can be advertised. Stated stormwater education did not work out this year. Thanked Marie for bringing on two new members and Gemma makes 3 new members. Questioned if any member had any questions or ideas.

JOANNE ARAN: Stated she is having a block party in July so if there is anything they want to promote or spread the word, she is happy to put up flyers.

PATTY ALMBERG: Suggested Joanne bring up the idea of composting and see if people are interested. Questioned Isabella why she is interested in the Green Team.

ISABELLA GILMOR: Advised she is an environmental science major at Wake Forest University and she is also involved with the Hackensack Riverkeeper and works at their paddling centers so if you want to partner up with them, she could check into that and make a connection.

NEXT MEETING: July 15, 2025

MEETING ENDED