



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
&
GREEN TEAM**

DATE: September 16, 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>

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated they had about 50 boxes collected. Stated to remind her what they should do differently next year.

GEMMA STAINES: Stated they should send out the notices earlier and to also have it for junior prom as well.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned Linda about the garden contest.

LINDA MEI: Advised they broke up the contest twice this summer, first half was flowers with 5 submissions and vegetables at the end of the summer with only 1 vegetable entry. Advised they just finished yesterday and next year they will go back to having just one contest with both flowers and vegetables.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised some upcoming events are River Edge Day on October 5th at 1:00 and asked if anyone is available to be there and October 11th is the shredding day from 9:00-1:00, as well as the Hackensack River Sweep. Asked Laura if she will be there.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she may be available, as the River Sweep has not been confirmed. Advised Tyler, who has been the outreach coordinator with the River Keeper, is now on the financial side and there is a new outreach coordinator, who has been busy and has not gotten back to her. Advised they are ready to go, and Jason is aware of the date.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated October 27th is the Bergen HUB meeting in Wyckoff. Questioned Pam about Skip the Stuff.

PAM GOULD: Advised Dave and herself have not connected, but it is ready to go.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised some people have emailed their site and were interested in Skip the Stuff and once they have a more solid plan they can reach out for assistance. Questioned if anyone is interested in doing another Styrofoam collection, as several people have reached out.

LINDA MEI: Stated they can have a Styrofoam collection anytime they just need to schedule using the densifier with Ridgefield Park.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised they did the Styrofoam collection and shredding on the same day in the past and questioned if that is something they should go back to doing.

LINDA MEI: Stated they can but they would have to put the Styrofoam in their cars.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated they would get a dumpster and that Pam use to call a company that would haul the Styrofoam.

PAM GOULD: Advised there was an expense to it, but it wasn't that much money.

MARIE PAPALEO: Questioned if you think it would be difficult to get the hauler for the Styrofoam collection on October 11th.

PAM GOULD: Advised you need to schedule it, and it may be too late to schedule for October 11th and more than like it would not be able to go to Ridgefield Park until the 14th as October 13th is a holiday.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised she asked David about the NJ Transit Adopt a Station and he will let them know about that. Advised there will be an equipment swap with the Recreation Department on November 4th, rain date of November 5th. Stated she will reach out to Joe Ricco to see about changing the swap date to October and was also thinking of having a Halloween costume swap in October.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Questioned what is going to be done with the extra equipment.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised the last time there was a school in Paterson and questioned if he still had their contact information.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Stated he can reach out to them.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised the costume swap idea was Gemma's and asked her to talk about some of the other ideas she had.

GEMMA STAINES: Stated she was thinking about a costume swap as people in town only wear them once or not at all and it is very wasteful and another idea was a community garden where people can plant their own plants and help maintain the garden, as well as having a solar panel seminar about how it affects the environment. Stated she was also thinking about collecting candy wrappers from Halloween and turning them into eco-bricks that kids can participate in.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she thinks the costume swap is easily attainable for early October, they just need to advertise it.

JOANNE ARAN: Advised there is a garden called Cherry Blossom Park and a lot of it is dirt and gravel and that would be a nice place to add extra flowers.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she has been saying for years that back lot is a perfect spot for a community garden, as there is water available and it is next to the apartments. Suggested Gemma speak to the Bogota Mayor, who is on the Bogota Environmental Protection Commission, to see how to start a community garden project and believes it will be a long project as you may need Mayor and Council approval.

PATTY ALMBERG: Suggested everyone do some research on community gardens. Stated she was thinking on River Edge Day to poll some residents to see if they have any interest in composting.

JOANNE ARAN: Stated that makes sense and questioned if there is a way to set up a QR Code to do a survey.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised there is, they can do a google form and scan it.

Next meeting is November 18, 2026.