



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

DATE/TIME/PLACE 1/18/2018

	Present	Absent
Laura Hoogstrate	<u>X</u>	
Greg Ogden	<u>X</u>	
Eileen Boland	<u>X</u>	
Mary Daly	<u>X</u>	
Brian Mitchell	<u>X</u>	
Bonnie Stewart	<u>X</u>	
Patty Almberg	<u>X</u>	
Councilwoman Busted	<u>X</u>	
Pam Gould, Alternate	<u>X</u>	
Gennaro Rotello, Alternate		<u>X</u>

AUDIENCE MEMBERS:

Name

Address

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Discussed the upcoming River clean-up. Advised she spoke with Caitlin and they discussed May 12, 2018 may be the best date for the clean-up, however it would be from 8:00 am to 11:00 am as high tide is early that morning. Stated she asked Caitlin how she felt about it being in the morning, who indicated she does not have a problem with that and she does not believe the River Keeper volunteers would have a problem with the morning hours. Advised she spoke with Caitlin and requested other dates she has available for late April or early June.

MEMBER: Stated he would go with the early morning on May 12th.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Indicated she will let Caitlin know so she can put it on her calendar. Advised she received an email from Nancy and stated they met over the summer with some of the teachers from Roosevelt and Cherry Hill and Patty volunteered to help out with the recycling club.

PATTY ALMBERG: Advised the third and fourth grader's meet at lunch time in Mr. Moody's class in Roosevelt and use the smart board and watch videos. Stated both schools are working on posters and eventually the students will go to different class rooms and talk to each class in order to bring awareness to what can be recycled, how to recycle and where to recycle. Advised Cherry Hill school is doing Teracycle and those students are working on the Teracycle boxes.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised Teracycle is the capstone project at Cherry Hill which the sixth grade students came up with as their project. Teracycle is a "for profit" company that finds waste streams that are not recycled, such as pencils, binders, juice pouches, which you collect and mail to Teracycle and then the school is given points to earn things or sometimes a cash reward. Teracycle finds ways to recycle those items. Advised they are working on the campaign educating the students about what can be recycled and they decided to do pencils, markers, crayons, binders and other school supplies. Stated Mrs. Hafers hopes the Commission can give them ideas and would also like physical help with the project. She advised Mrs. Hafers received a \$500 grant from BCUA. Indicated they are doing a pilot at Cherry Hill and if it runs well this year, she will start the program at Roosevelt.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned who ships the items out.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised the students, led by adults do that and Mrs. Hafers would like some parent volunteers that can spend time during the school day helping the students. Indicated that is something the Commission can possibly fund if the pilot works out. Stated it would be great if they could get a Facebook page and is not sure who takes responsibility for that and possibly update the Environmental Protection Facebook page to include information about Teracycle.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned how you would update the Facebook page.

MEMBER: Advised you need to do that through the town and you would need to sign some paperwork.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated the Commission should have updated information on the Borough's webpage and questioned who she needs to contact.

MEMBER: Advised the person to contact is the Borough Clerk, Stephanie.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated the trees in the River Edge Tree Farm have no place to go, and is concerned the tree farm may turn into a forest.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Advised they signed an Inter-Local Agreement with Paramus and Bergen County, who were to come and take much of the trees out, so there are plans to remove a good portion of those trees.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned who is responsible for the Tree Farm.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Indicated she believes it is the Beautification Committee and if you are interested in collaborating with someone regarding the Tree Farm you can start with them.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she would like to move things that are there and hopefully find places for those trees. Advised it could be a location for the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts to do projects. Stated Linda Moorehouse of Clean Communities said they did not put in the Mini Grant for the May clean-up, nor was the grant put in for the October clean-up, so the Commission should be getting two \$500 checks. Asked Greg to speak about the Open Space request.

GREG OGDEN: Advised that in the past the Recreation Committee received Open Space money for maintenance of the parks and the Environmental Commission never got involved for Open Space money as he was told it would not be necessary as Environmental Commission would get money from other channels.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised the request is due tomorrow, so she will tell them they do not have a request for Open Space at this time.

GREG OGDEN: Advised the one time they applied for Open Space was for the floatable dock by the boathouse, but it was too costly.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated at the last meeting there was a discussion about the High School and Middle School and questioned if you should reach out to Susan Carney again.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Indicated she spoke with Susan, who said she would get back to her regarding having a student representative on the Commission.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Suggested putting a Teracycle box at the Library and Borough Hall.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Indicated they could get the recycling boxes from the Cherry Hill and Roosevelt students and even the Girl Scout Troops could make boxes, however, someone would have to be responsible for shipping it, but it can be looked into. She advised the 6th grade students at Roosevelt School want to start composting.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated composting is tough as it needs to be maintained every year and that the 6th graders come up with the great ideas, but they move on to the Middle School, which was the big reason for starting the recycling clubs in 3rd and 4th grades. Stated you need to get in touch with the Middle School to see what the students are doing regarding recycling.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated at the last meeting a discussion was held about the Borough getting involved with the Paris Agreement, but she was advised it was very costly for the town.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Advised they would need to pass a Resolution and it would also require vehicle commitments and John Lynch of the DPW said it would be cost prohibitive, however you can look at something in a smaller scale.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Suggested looking at other towns that are similar to River Edge in terms of what they may be doing.

MEMBER: Advised the Green Team is very active and she can see what they are doing.

MEETING ADJOURNED