



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION**

**DATE/TIME/PLACE**      May 16, 2019

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Laura Hoogstrate</b>	<u>          X          </u>	
<b>Eileen Boland</b>		<u>                  X          </u>
<b>Mary Daly</b>	<u>          X          </u>	
<b>Brian Mitchell</b>	<u>          X          </u>	
<b>Bonnie Stewart</b>	<u>          X          </u>	
<b>Patty Almborg</b>		<u>                  X          </u>
<b>Pam Gould</b>	<u>          X          </u>	
<b>Councilwoman Busted</b>		<u>                  X          </u>
<b>David Kraft, Alternate</b>	<u>          X          </u>	
<b>Brandon Cho, Alternate</b>	<u>          X          </u>	

**AUDIENCE MEMBERS:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
<u>Steven Gu</u>	<u>RDHS</u>

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated Scouting For Food did not go bagless this year, but they did have 1000 less bags and collected 709 bags of food and next year their plan is to go completely bagless which this Commission will support. Advised some of the residents did not get the Commission's flyer, as some streets did not get the bags and suggested bringing this to the Boy Scout's attention, and there are extra flyers, some of which are at the Library and they can be brought to different events as they are not time sensitive. Questioned Pam how the clean-up went this year.

PAM GOULD: Advised they had approximately 90 volunteers, and they collected a little less garbage, which she believes is a good thing.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she does not think it was due to the lack of effort or the timing, but because of the weather.

MEMBER: Questioned if it was tracked how many River Edge residents volunteered.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated they did not get everyone, but they have 20 but it could have been close to 30. Advised Palisades Park usually brings their entire Environmental Club to the clean-up, with their teacher, who has been coming for 14 years. Indicated people were waiting to get into boats, so she is not sure how much they should advertise the clean-up. Questioned Pam about the litter survey.

PAM GOULD: Advised she went to the training and discussed the process of taking the survey, along with the items you need. Stated you need to be finished by June 30, 2019.

MEMBER: Questioned how big the area is to be surveyed.

PAM GOULD: Stated it is 400 meters.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised dates will be available soon to take the survey.

BONNIE STEWART: Questioned what the goal is to doing the survey.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she is not sure how they are going to use the data.

PAM GOULD: Stated the idea was to identify where the trash is coming from and work to correct it.

BONNIE STEWART: Questioned if they advised how many people you need on a team.

PAM GOULD: Stated they said at the very least you need 2, but feels you may need 6.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised she will check with Kaitlyn regarding the sites and if there are any dates, along with Suez volunteers. Stated she can check with Mrs. Carney to see if she can get some volunteers. Questioned Steven if he has anything to report.

STEVEN GU: Stated they are focusing on 3 major goals, the first is to register as a sustainable school, the second is to get rid of Styrofoam trays and the third is to promote recycling in the school.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Suggested to contact Nancy Hafers, who managed to get a recycling contractor for the elementary schools, who may be able to assist him in getting a contractor for the high school. Advised Ms. Hafers reached out to her and advised her there is a lot of Tera Cycle opportunities that will work for the town. Stated Tera Cycle takes items that are not recyclable and separates them into different components to recycle. Advised sometimes it is a free program where you earn points, or you can purchase boxes and you shipped the box to them. Discussed different recycling programs to do for Tera Cycle.

MEMBER: Questioned if there is a way to publicize the Tera Cycle programs in the schools.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated this Commission can use its social media to publicize the Tera Cycle in the schools. Questioned Dave if he has anything on the data the Commission is collecting.

DAVE KRAFT: Advised they sent information out that they received from Lisa Hessman. Stated the comingled in 2017 was just over 400 tons and in 2018 it was just under 500 tons, but the paper and cardboard went down.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she is okay with the paper and cardboard going down as they will at least biodegrade.

DAVE KRAFT: Stated he questioned Lisa Hessman if they have data on the materials that were dejected and she gave him the phone number to Atlantic to contact. Stated he also collected data from the River Edge Clean-up and he will starting documenting all the information.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised Jason Melito, the new Superintendent of the DPW, was at the River Clean-Up. Stated Jason was excited about it and that it helps him with the permit for the storm water.

MEMBER: Questioned if anybody every spoke with the Chamber of Commerce and talked to them about being more environmental regarding the stores using less plastic.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated they need to think about the small businesses as the plastic containers are cheaper and make financial sense to the business.

MEMBER: Stated if you never talked to them about it, they will not think about it.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated it does not hurt to start the conversation. Stated she was on the river with Jim Miller, who has a connection with the river, and he suggested

having boat races out on the river. Advised she spoke with Caitlin about having an eco-paddle day on the river during the summer and she said she would be getting back to me when she has time in her schedule.