



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

DATE/TIME/PLACE 4/20/17 Council Chambers

	Present	Absent
Laura Hoogstrate	<u>X</u>	
Gregg 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>	
Gennaro Rotello, Alternate		<u>X</u>

AUDIENCE MEMBERS:

Name

Address

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised May 13, 2017 is the River clean-up from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Stated the Hackensack River Keeper has been contacted and everything is set-up. Indicated she will look into getting pizza for the volunteers and will check for the

lowest price or if a local pizza place will donate pizza. Asked Bonnie to speak about the Sustainable New Jersey.

BONNIE STEWART: Passed out information about sustainable New Jersey. Advised there are different certificates you can get and River Edge is a sustainable New Jersey Bronze. Stated there are certain points that are priority actions, such as this year they did prescription drug safety. Advised you add up the points and you get certified which enables the town to apply for Grants. Stated you can go on the web site to see what other towns are certified and what they do.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised herself and Ellen went to the Bergen County Environmental Conference and stated Tenafly has a high school student on the commission. Stated it is helpful to have a connection in the schools and she would like to discuss how to go about getting a high school student involved, such as having the high school science teacher at River Dell possibly recommend a junior high school student that may be interested, or a student from an environmental club.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she is not sure if the high school has an environmental club, but that should be looked into.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Indicated there may be a teacher who would recognize a student that would want to be involved and questioned if anyone had any suggestions how to find the right candidate.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she would suggest getting two students, as she knows the high school has two students that sit on the Board of Education, and this way you have an alternate person, in case one of the students could not make a meeting.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised they were told they can have a student, but they will not be a voting member.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Advised they will be a seated member of the Commission, but will be a non-voting member.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated having two members is a good idea due to all the high school activities the students are involved in and the frequency the Commission meets.

PATTY ALMBERG: Made a motion to offer a non-voting seating position on the Environmental Protection Commission for two River Dell High School students.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Second.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: All in favor.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Advised the only thing that came up with the meeting of the Tenafly student was that he approached the BCUA for a Grant, which is where he got the money for the water fountains for the high school. Indicated she is not sure if this Commission has approached BCUA or looked into what the opportunities are, but believes it could be a good task for the high school students that come on to the Commission. Indicated they could connect them with the Tenafly student to find out what he did.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised the Bergen County Clean Communities are giving the Commission a mini grant for the clean-up, however paper work needs to be filed. Indicated she believes the Grant money is \$500.00. Advised Gregg is ordering t-shirts for the clean-up volunteers.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned if the River Keeper staff come to the clean-up.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised the River Keeper will be there with the boats and the clean-up equipment has been set. Stated it was discussed in the past about having a Riverfest, however the Commission is not in a position to do that this year. Indicated there will be a second clean-up in October that starts in New Milford/Oradell and River Edge just removes the boats from the river, which could be another opportunity to have a Riverfest. Questioned if anyone had any ideas about putting together some vendors or representatives from DEP with materials for the volunteers to take back home with them, to make a mini eco-fair. Questioned Ellen about the Resolution.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Advised the Mayor and Council adopted a Resolution urging the DEP to move forward with declaring the Hackensack River as a superfund site and to support the evidence that the EPA has laid out that it is contaminated and should be declared a superfund site in order to get funds to help remediate that. Stated River Edge joined Oradell, Hackensack and several other communities along the river in show of support. Advised Roosevelt School is participating in Walk to School Day on May 5th, which is being initiated by the school and nurses, which she believes is a good step in the right direction and anything the Commission can do to support those participating is a good thing and is not sure if it will give them sustainable New Jersey points.

BONNIE STEWART: Advised she will need someone to take some pictures during it and she can upload that, as it will give points.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Indicated she thinks it would be a good thing if Cherry Hill could do it on the same day as Roosevelt next year.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned why Cherry Hill could not get in on it this year.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Stated she asked the nurses at Roosevelt to initiate it through the administration, but is not sure if Roosevelt reached out to Cherry Hill.

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LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned if she could send an email to Mrs. Heitman and to the nurse and see if they want to join.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Indicated she can do that.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised there are recycling bins and compost bins available through BCUA and questioned if samples were at the cleanup, if families can order them and believes it may only require a telephone call to BCUA to request samples at the site and maybe they would be willing to donate them, which could be raffled off.

BONNIE STEWART: Stated she has a contact at the BCUA and she could make a telephone call to find out.

MEMBER: Stated the other idea was to have a permanent station at the Farmer's Market regarding how to compost and people could use it to put their food waste in.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned when the Farmer's Market starts up.

MEMBER: Indicated she believes it is early June.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned who would be responsible for being at the Farmer's Market.

MEMBER: Stated it is a good idea even if the compost wasn't being used, just on display.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Indicated you can ask BCUA if they have any ideas or suggestions what else could be done the day of the clean-up.

BONNIE STEWART: Indicated she will tell them about the event and suggest having the samples and if they have any ideas she will advise the Commission.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated they can set up a table under their tent. Advised advertising for the clean-up past was not done that well in the past, but stated they only have a certain amount of boats available. Stated she is aware St. Peter's is advertising it and the College's send student representatives to the clean-up and questioned if you want to put out an advertisement.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Advised he gets some advertisement from the Girl Scouts.

ELLEN BUSTEED: Stated you can promote it through the Facebook page, as the Borough has social media policy and the Commission can have a Facebook page to promote the event.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Indicated that may be a cause for a sub-committee. Advised the next meeting is June 15, 2017.

PATTY ALMBERG: Questioned how the second chance toy drive is advertised.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Indicated the week before the drive you see toys being put out on the curb.

BONNIE STEWART: Stated it is in the Town paper and will be placed on her own Facebook page, along with an email blast. Advised second chance toys does a lot of work throughout the region and people have been reaching out to her from different places and mailing her toys.

MEETING ENDED