



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION**

**DATE/TIME/PLACE**

**November 21, 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 Almberg</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:**

**Name**

**Address**

**Jennifer Schneider NJWAP**  
**815 Winding Way, River Vale, NJ**

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Discussed 2020 meeting dates. Advised the reappointments need to be given to the Council and questioned if those individuals whose appointments are up would like to be reappointed.

BONNIE STEWART: Questioned how long the term is for.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated it is a 3 year term.

BONNIE STEWART: Stated she will be back.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she will be back.

PAMELA GOULD: Stated she will be back.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she will be back and will advise Councilwoman Busted. Advised they need to put the May cleanup on the calendar and she will reach out to Kaitlin regarding the date, which is usually Mother's Day weekend.

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER: Questioned if they want her to ask specifically for May 9<sup>th</sup> or May 2<sup>nd</sup> and if you want a Saturday or Sunday.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated they can do any May weekend and they have been doing the cleanups on Saturdays.

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER: Stated she will offer May 2<sup>nd</sup> or May 9<sup>th</sup>.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated Saturdays will work, but definitely not May 10<sup>th</sup>.

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER: Advised those two weekends would be the only ones that would work, as the following weekend the River Keeper has Riverfest on the 17<sup>th</sup> in Overpeck Park and the following weekend is Memorial Day weekend.

DAVID KRAFT: Discussed the Commission's Mission Statement and suggested how the Commission would measure its success for the May cleanup. Questioned if the success would be measured by the amount of volunteers or the weight of the trash, or other items that is more in the Commission's control.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Indicated the weight of the trash is a variable that you cannot control and even weather impacts that and she would go further with the volunteers as the Commission wants to have more volunteers from River Edge.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated it would be good to think about what the Commission has for goals and try to reach those goals.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned if you want to look at the number of volunteers from River Edge, what can the Commission do to help increase the number of River Edge

volunteers. Stated the schools are a good way to advertise for volunteers and possibly reach out to Scout groups.

DAVID KRAFT: Stated he will present it to the Scouts and indicated it would be nice to get the calendar for the year to give to the Scouts so they can see what events are coming up.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised for their role in helping with the Litter Survey, they have a Paddling Day which they are trying to work out and was thinking of offering that first as a Scouting activity, which David can explain to the Scouts.

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER: Scouts that participate in the cleanup/boat shed repair can take part in the paddling day as a reward.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated you can make it a reward.

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER: Advised they had more volunteers and more cleanups this year, but less tonnage which is a good thing.

PAM GOULD: Stated the paddling is a great idea, connecting it with participation, but it cannot just be Scouts, it needs to include everyone that participates.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Asked Jennifer to give an update on the storm drain.

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER: Advised she will be meeting with the Principals from Cherry Hill and Roosevelt Schools and will discuss everything they came up with regarding the contest, designing, specifically for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and how it will be implemented, advertised, the criteria, selection and once she gets the go ahead she will create all the materials. Stated they should be ready in January or February, and possibly in March have the designs due and April the High School students can do the actual painting. Stated Jason Milito, DPW Superintendent, is on board with the project. Advised they will be doing one storm drain, in front of each school.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised they have a Mission Statement that they did compose and believes it is important to keep looking at that to see how the Commission is doing.

PATTY ALMBERG: Suggested opening each meeting with the Mission Statement.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated that is a good idea. Advised Bonnie and herself received a communication from Alan regarding Stacy.

BONNIE STEWART: Advised Councilwoman Ellen texted about doing a speaker series at the library and having Stacy, who speaks about food waste, doing the first one.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised she suggested Jennifer be at one of the events they invite the community to attend.

BONNIE STEWART: Suggested in January have Stacy give a talk and in March or April have Jennifer give a talk.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised she will ask Councilwoman Ellen what dates are good for Stacy and Jennifer can provide dates that are good for her as well, so they can reserve the room at the library. Questioned if they are doing talks regarding food waste and river friendly practices, what could be the third or fourth in the series of talks. Suggested having a recycling expert give a talk.

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER: Stated the most questions she gets about recycling is regarding composting, which she does not know much about.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she likes the idea of composting and the Bergen County Utilities Authority has an Earth Machine they offer at a good price, which is a very good composting bin, and if they donated one they could raffle it off.

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER: Suggested one of the last talks when the weather gets warmer could focus on recreation on the river.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised Stacy might talk about composting when she discusses food waste.

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER: Advised Councilwoman Busteed questioned the fertilizer use in connection with the storm drains, and she came up with an EST training where residents can learn about fertilizers and she plans on doing a training regarding the best management practice for lawns in general.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she can include that in the series at the library.

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER: Stated she would also like to include the river friendly resident survey from the Water Institute, which has several categories and at the end of the survey, and depending on how much criteria you meet, you will receive from the Water Institute a stake for your yard indicating you are a river friendly resident.

DAVE KRAFT: Read the Mission Statement into the minutes.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated everything they discussed today falls under the Mission Statement and believes that communication is really important. Questioned how they are inviting residents to these programs and making sure they come. Stated they discussed social media and the Borough website and thinks if the Principals send out an e-blast whenever the Commission is doing something would help get the information out. Questioned if anyone wants to take on securing the room at the library for the talks.

BONNIE STEWART: Stated she could do that.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned Brandon if there is anything to report from River Dell.

BRANDON CHO: Advised they only had 2 meetings and they are still trying to get a schedule together.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned how the tray situation is working out and if they are using any trays.

BRANDON CHO: Advised they are using paper plates.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned if there is any update in the change in the recycling.

BRANDON CHO: Stated they are still working on that.

TAPE ENDED