



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

DATE/TIME/PLACE January 17, 2019

In attendance:

Laura Hoogstrate

David Kraft

Ellen Busteed

Patty Almberg

Brandon Cho

Bonnie Stewart

Pam Gould

Brian Mitchell

Guests: Caitlin Doran (River Keepers), Steven Gu (student)

Absent with Notice: Eileen Boland, Mary Daly

- It was announced that Laura received a Town Home Hero Award from Congressman Josh Gottenheimer, everyone was very proud of her
- Caitlin Doran (Hackensack River Keeper)
 - o Volunteer Day, 2/7/2019 at Elks Club, may use a Super Hero Theme
 - o Discussed various activities of the River Keepers and RE participation in May and Oct River Cleanups
 - o Caitlin wanted to solicit RE participation in a new event – Harbor Estuary Program, Estuaries and runoff create a lot of down river pollution, there is a program that Caitlin participated in at the Passaic River, to survey the estuaries by collecting and classifying/quantifying trash at various estuaries that lead to the river. The River Keepers would like to do a similar estuary survey on the Hackensack. This would not be done on the riverbanks but further in, based on ¼ miles areas on roadways that lead to or runoff to the river. Safety is a concern, as the garbage will be collected 1 ft. into the roadway, therefore training is required. Ultimately, to make a difference, the source of the litter/pollution must be identified in order to help eliminate the problem.
 - A QA Plan (QAPP) must be developed and approved prior to the survey

- Hoping to do training for the cleanup in March – training is necessary as this is a data driven survey, with criteria and the EPA provides funds
 - Caitlin suggested identifying side streets (David might be able to assist here)
 - Identify 4 sites in River Edge
 - Provide site possibilities to Caitlin – sites must be checked out to be sure they meet the appropriate criteria – i.e.: 300 ft. buffer from the waterway is required for the area to be a useable site, etc.
 - Survey itself has criteria – not after a rainstorm or trash pickup day, at least a week between surveys, etc.
 - Partnering with Montclair State University
 - Sheets for cataloging trash will be provided – that are sent to Caitlin for tallying and logging and provided ultimately to the EPA
 - Snacks will be provided – need to encourage people to assist in the survey
 - Discussed other towns that could participate as they are looking for 20-30 total sites along the river
 - The survey is conducted twice at the same locations on different days, so there would be double the number of surveys (20 sites, 40 surveys)
 - Looking for 4 sites in River Edge and the survey will move all the way down to Moonachie and the Meadowlands
 - Training will be required one evening at at Montclair State Univ; a few representatives from the Commission could attend and then provide training to local volunteers in River Edge
 - The survey consists of 2 pages – a description page of the area to be surveyed which can be completed prior to the QA Plan approval; the second sheet must be completed after QAPP approval
 - More to come
- Discussed the Bi-State Clean-up scheduled for 4/27 – difficult weekend for many in town due to other events scheduled
- *** Laura to e-mail Barbara about dates between Bi-state and River Clean Up in May – to determine options
- Students Discussed Actions they are working
- Video based on Recycling Flyer – did a skit style video, in order to make sure it is accurate they will send to Laura for review. Ms. Carney will do a social media blast to get the info/video out.
 - Discussed recycling process, recommended to be careful on what is being recycled and follow the towns direction, too many unrecyclable will cause the load to be discarded, this is based on the hauler. For example River Edge recycles 1, 2, and 5; 6s are too heavy, the process to recycle is too toxic.
 - Discussed Glen Rock's Styrofoam collection Day
- Bergen Hub/Sustainable NJ – we have done quite a bit in this area, ultimately the goal is to share information on a county wide based. Caitlin will get us a contact, to assist in collaboration.
- Questions were raised on the commitment of various groups to actually recycle – in particular in the schools, suggestions were made on how to increase awareness of the necessity to recycle in

the face of disappointments; go to the School Board meetings to help make this a bigger priority, write an article for the paper, etc.

- Patti – discussed the Recycling Club efforts – Roosevelt is designing a reusable water bottle, Cherry Hill is working on a video on recycling, there are still a few boxes available for recycling batteries at Cherry Hill.
- Environmental HS Club – about 20 individuals attend routinely, definitely interested in community service hours, if there were more specific opportunities to help more would probably attend. Recommended to the student attendees to encourage the club members to check our River Keepers website, etc. Caitlin offered to attend a meeting to discuss possible volunteer opportunities. The Green Team would also be willing to work with the Club and Ms. Carney. Student need to get back to Caitlin and the Green Team if they would like to have them attend a meeting, info on possible opportunities could be exchanged.
- Bonnie spoke on Social Media – The Green Team and Environmental Commission page is being managed as 1 not 2 – everyone agreed that was a good idea. It is called the River Edge Environmental Commission and Green Team page. It is still being worked on and improved all the time. Send Bonnie information you would like posted, that would be helpful to residents or of interest.
- Recycling Flyer – Laura suggested that we could partner with the Boy Scouts on their Scouting for Food drive – possibly use them to distribute our flyer when they go door to door and at the same time work with them to possibly distribute reusable bags rather than plastic bags to collect food donations. Possible sources for bags: “Bergen County Clean Communities” and possibly Shop Rite. The drive is the beginning of April. Coordination would be needed. Also discussed the flyer and the layout, decided to not combine our flyer with the boy scouts flyer on their food collection and the use of reusable bags. Discussed the flyer design again. Flyer format needs to be decided on so that printing can be accomplished if we are to pair up with the Boy Scouts who do their food drive in the March/April time frame.
- River Clean-Up – we received the P.O. for 2018, still waiting for 2017.
- Dave spoke about Mission Statement and Goals. We should try to answer the following questions: What we do, how we do it, whom for, and what value we bring to the table. Red a statement from Wykoff as an example. Dave will take ideas from the group and try to draft a Mission Statement. Goals to follow. Discussed the vast number of things to do and how to fit them into the statement or goals. Also discussed the possibility of a theme for the year.
- Green Team Update and Sustainable NJ
 - o Much work has been done just to get to the Bronze level
 - o Next level would be Silver – need to do a number of larger projects to achieve the Silver Level
 - o Question posed if the Commission could help
 - o Want to use the Grant money for larger projects
 - o It is 3 years between certifications at the Bronze level
 - o Could possibly consider LED lighting as a big project we could work on within the town – Arch Diocese has an environmental commission that saved a lot of money by converting to LEDs
 - o Discussed the RE budget year and how to work with the town on these larger projects

- Bench is here; working with Judy to purchase a plaque, the Rec Dpt wants it to be displayed prominently so they are considering Memorial Park near the pavilion – nothing decided yet.
- March 21, 2019 is the next meeting – 7:30 at the Boro Hall
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