



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION**

<b>DATE/TIME/PLACE</b>	<b><u>January 16, 2020</u></b>	
	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Laura Hoogstrate</b>	X	
<b>Eileen Boland</b>	X	
<b>Mary Daly</b>	X	
<b>Brian Mitchell</b>	X	
<b>Bonnie Stewart</b>	X	
<b>Patty Almberg</b>	via telephone	
<b>Pam Gould</b>		X
<b>Councilwoman Busted</b>	X	
<b>David Kraft, Alternate</b>		X
<b>Brandon Cho, Alternate</b>	X	
<b>AUDIENCE MEMBERS:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>

The Environmental Protection Commission Mission Statement was read into the Minutes.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised they have good news from Sustainable Jersey.

BONNIE STEWART: Stated they received the bronze award, which is good for three years. Advised for the next year, she will keep a folder for each project they decide to do and plan ahead on what they need for the project rather than waiting until the end to gather all of the material.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised Bonnie emailed the press release about Sustainable Jersey to Councilwoman Busted. Advised Jennifer meet with both schools regarding the storm drain contest and has dates in late February to go into all the fifth grade classrooms. Stated the fifth grade teachers and the art teachers agreed to run the contest on their end. Stated she reached out to the River Dell art teacher to make sure she will be able to provide the artists to do the actual painting and the plan is to do it during spring break. Advised the River Keeper has agreed to give out prizes, such as paddling at the paddle center. Provided an update on their speaker series. Stated Jennifer was already working on the EST, and there will be a discussion about this on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the library. Advised this is open to all residents, but they would like to get representatives from different groups in River Edge to come as they have an audience they can bring it back to. Stated the idea of having speakers at the library came when Ellen suggested having Stacy come to talk about food waste, which has also been scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

COUNCILWOMAN BUSTEED: Advised the subject is going to be about reducing food waste at home, generally it will be about food waste reduction and she will give statistics about food waste. Stated she also asked Stacy to show people how to put these into action and the tools they will need.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated Bonnie has been the "go to" person working with the library in terms of getting the space and the dates. Advised February 3<sup>rd</sup> is for River Friendly Practices; March 7<sup>th</sup> for Reducing Food Waste and April 22<sup>nd</sup> for recycling.

COUNCILWOMEN BUSTEED: Advised Stacey Antine is a registered dietician and the founder of Food Barn, which is located in Ridgewood, where they teach adults and children about healthy eating and food waste has become a passion of hers.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated the lectures are a series of three speakers right now and they will see how that develops. Stated May 9<sup>th</sup> is the River Clean-Up and it will be a 10:00 a.m. start, until 2:00 p.m. Questioned Patty if she is good with contacting Clean Communities and if she would like to work out the mini grant details.

PATTY ALMBERG: Stated she is good with doing that.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Indicated Pam and someone else will take photographs which will support the mini grant application. Stated they wanted to make advertising a goal as a Commission and they discussed getting more River Edge volunteers. Suggested providing something for the volunteers to do that day if they are not cleaning the river, as

there are not enough boats to take everybody out. Stated she would like to put together some events and have a mini Riverfest and possibly have Jenny bring some things like a watershed model, however the food will become an issue as you will not know how many volunteers will show up and if there will be enough food or too much food. Asked for any suggestions.

MEMBER: Suggested having some things for people to do who don't get on the boat first.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Indicated they can put up some booths and maybe some people can bring their materials, flyers, have some games. Stated everyone should think about it and they need to decide before the next meeting in March.

BONNIE STEWART: Suggested having a Styrofoam collection that day.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated it would be a good idea to speak to Jason about it.

PATTY ALMBERG: Suggested having 2 different set times for a quick tour of the DPW, as a lot of people have not been down to the DPW.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised it is time for Scouting for Food and this year it will be bagless. Stated they need to kick up the advertising for the Scouts and they are going to ask Fresh Direct to supply the Scouts with bags and if that doesn't work out they can reach out to other companies. Questioned Brandon if there was anything new happening at the high school.

BRANDON CHO: Stated they have not had a meeting for a while now, so there is nothing new to report.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised the River Keeper does an annual appreciation of volunteers and would like River Edge Commission members go to it. Stated it is held at the Elks Club in Bergenfield on February 6<sup>th</sup> and the theme this year is Volunteers in Space. Questioned Ellen if she has any news from the Council to share with the Commission.

COUNCILWOMAN BUSTEED: Stated the Recreation Commission agreed to purchase teracycle cigarette butt receptacles and they will be placed at KGB.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned who will be responsible for emptying them.

COUNCILWOMAN BUSTEED: Stated the DPW will empty them.

BONNIE STEWART: Stated they were discussing the plastic bags at the Green Team meeting and they thought of getting on board with that within the year. Advised Ellen indicated it is a process to get an Ordinance for that and may take a year and suggested the Commission team up with the Green Team on getting an Ordinance past.

COUNCILWOMAN BUSTEED: Advised this did come up at one time and there was opposition from some members who felt it would be unfriendly to business. Stated the first step would be to bring it up in a work session, then ask the Borough Attorney to look at a variety of Ordinances that have been passed in Bergen County so you can take a look at what was past to see what you wanted to include in the Ordinance. Suggested giving the businesses in town lead time before the Ordinance is past and advised Fairlawn is considering this as well. Stated she believes if they can find a member of the business community that can talk to the Council and help them figure out how to make the change, it would be beneficial. Stated if the Commission would like her to bring it up at the next Council meeting she will.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Questioned if it helps Councilwoman Busteed if the request comes from the Commission.

COUNCILWOMAN BUSTEED: Stated it does help. Advised they can come to a meeting when it is on the Agenda, or they can develop a statement and email that, which can be distributed to the Council, but it does help if it comes originally from a Committee, Commission or the public.

BRIAN MITCHELL: Questioned Bonnie if they want to do this in conjunction with the Green Team.

BONNIE STEWART: Stated that would be a good idea. Suggested since they are doing a lecture series, possibly inviting the businesses from the town to the lecture, so they can be educated on banning plastic bags, so they can see the benefits of the program.

Everyone voted to attend the February 10<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to support the bag ban in River Edge.

TAPE ENDED