



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

DATE/TIME/PLACE 5/17/2018

	Present	Absent
Laura Hoogstrate	<u>X</u>	
Greg 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 Almborg		<u>X</u>
Councilwoman Busted		<u>X</u>
Pam Gould, Alternate	<u>X</u>	
Gennaro Rotello, Alternate		<u>X</u>

AUDIENCE MEMBERS:

Name	Address
<u>David Kraft</u>	<u>- 244 Kinderkamack Road</u>
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LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated it was a very busy Spring and April 14th was the kickoff of the Trex Challenge. Advised they have collected 102lbs. of stretch plastic. The bins are located outside of the Library, Roosevelt, Cherry Hill in the rear and another bin will travel to different events to raise awareness. Indicated Patty Almborg has taken over that project and she is visiting the schools working with recycling clubs and is checking the library bin, which they weigh and bring to Whole Foods, who sends it to Virginia. Stated if the collection stays the way it is going, they will meet their goal of collecting 500lbs. by mid-October. Said she would like to wrap it up by River Edge Day. Advised Bi-State was the following weekend, which was sparsely attended, but some Daisy Scouts came out and picked-up litter in the parks, with the total litter collected for the clean-up was 76lbs., with 8 lbs. of recyclables they can separate and recycle, with approximately 20lbs. of scrap metal. Indicated they will join again next year and she spoke with Caitlin and decided they will separate the River Clean-up and make it further apart from the Bi-State. Stated two weeks after that was the River Clean-up which was very successful and was over 1,000lbs. of trash. Indicated they had 46 volunteers with 12 boats were out on the water. She submitted the paperwork to the Bergen County Clean Communities for the mini-Grant, which gives grants up to \$500 for municipal clean-up and who supported this Commission by giving them the gloves and bags they used on that day. The River Keeper supplied 8 of the boats, the rest of the 5 boats were the Commissions and Bi-State asked they take pictures and fill out a summary report.

MEMBER: Questioned when the plastic collection was going to end.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised it will be through October. Questioned if anyone had any suggestions regarding that or if they would like to see a bin placed somewhere.

MEMBER: Questioned if the high school students are going to part of the Commission on a regular basis.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated there is a Freshman in the Environmental Club, who is going for his Eagle award, and believes he would be interested and would check with him and his family to see if he would like to join the Commission. Advised they were looking to have a non-voting high school representative and they need to follow through on that.

MEMBER: Advised someone approached her in Church because her son wanted to get involved in the environmental field and she wants to get him some exposure.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she knows it is hard for the high school students to meet as they have a lot of conflict and they have been working on getting a high school student on the Commission for a while, but the Historic Commission has a student on their Commission already.

MEMBER: Stated the student is interested in getting into the field and is interested in doing any volunteer work.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated it is good to have someone who knows what is happening in the schools, in order to collaborate with the schools and if he is interested he can come to a meeting. Suggested she reach out to the student's mother and let her know when the next meeting is and give the student her contact information in case he wants to reach out to her. Questioned Mary about the "no admissions" and if she looked into Glen Rock's web site.

MARY DALY: Advised she did check into it and Glen Rocks information was brief on their website.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated that seems like a good place to start and it all comes back to how they come across on the River Edge website, which is not that stunning. She advised she contacted the right people to change that. Indicated she finds Glen Rocks Environmental Commission's webpage inspiring, as they have pictures, it's simple and they have residents that go to their meetings frequently and get actively involved and the fact they got that mobilized that quickly it has to do with their social media and their Commission is active in their community. Advised River Edge Environmental Commission's website did not have the proper meeting dates and it has the wrong numbers of what plastics get recycled, but it is in the process of being fixed.

MEMBER: Questioned if Glen Rock communicates only through their website.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated they are able to e-blast residents, but this Commission does not have that capability. Indicated River Edge is getting a public access channel, which may help. Stated they have a lot to accomplish, even though they have done a lot. Advised the Mayor will get her information that has a cost breakdown of what it costs when the residents don't recycle, as we get paid for recycling and the land fill fees that we pay. Indicated if the recycling is rejected because it is the wrong materials, it all gets dumped, so it is not being recycled and the town is getting charged for it, so the Mayor feels that information might be a motivating factor for residents to recycle. Stated what materials are recycled, how it is recycled, and why it is recycled needs to be published.

MEMBER: Indicated that information should be sent out in the tax flyer.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised she asked the Mayor to put out a letter to the residents stating the information.

MEMBER: Stated the Commission could write the letter and the Mayor could sign it.

MEMBER: Stated the basic way to change behavior is to meet these stages in order: make somebody aware, have a buy-in, know how to do it, the ability to do it and repeat it, and once you get to that repetition it is all good. Indicated the approach of having the Mayor come out and make people aware is a great idea and that letter can also create that "buy-in."

MEMBER: Stated she does not have the time to go on the town's web-site and years ago there was a postcard that was mailed and advised what the plastic recycling numbers were.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised the cardboard milk, juice and broth containers can be recycled as well, which she only recently became aware of.

MEMBER: Questioned if you can recycle cardboard boxes that had food on them, like pizza boxes.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she believes it may be because of the liner in the cardboard containers, which is why they can be recycled, but the pizza boxes are usually oil soaked. Advised aluminum foil can be recycled as well. Indicated this is the kind of information she would like the high school students to create on a PSA about recycling. Questioned if it should start with the Mayor sending out a letter.

MEMBER: Stated he would start there and anything to create awareness is a great idea to focus on now, as that is obviously where there is a gap.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Indicated if you don't know what to recycle, you have to put it in the trash. Stated there are there types of people; people who find out what is recyclable, people who put everything in recycling and people who do not recycle at all and they need to make more people aware about recycling.

MEMBER: Questioned if the plastic caps on the bottles are recyclable.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised she originally thought they were not recyclable, but through research she found out that the caps get stuck in the machines so the recycling contractors do not want the caps. Advised you can also recycling toothpaste tubes. Nancy Hafers is running 2 recycling clubs, one at Roosevelt, one at Cherry Hill and she created a page on the school website that is devoted the Environmental Commission, which lists the events and promotes the Trex Challenge and she doing what she can to get as many people involved as possible.

MEMBER: Questioned when the next meeting is scheduled.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised the next meeting is Thursday, July 19, 2018.

MEMBER: Questioned if you should shoot to have the Mayor's letter by that time.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated she thinks we should shoot to have the Mayor's letter by then because they need to have a deadline when to have things done. Advised she sent an initial email to the Mayor about it, based on the information he wanted to share with the residents.

MEMBER: Questioned if it would be too much to add a flyer about what you can recycle.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated that is also in the works with Lisa Guinta.

MEMBER: Stated she believes the way to get the information to the most residents is to mail something.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Questioned how many of those flyers are not going into recycling. Questioned if you would be missing too many residents if the flyer went home with the students.

MEMBER: Believed you would miss too many residents.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated there is so much non-information, incorrect information and confusion, that it might be a good way to get the most people to see it. Indicated the website needs to be updated first and all the social media has to be in place before you can send out a flyer.

MEMBER: Questioned who is updating the website.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised she has permission to provide the correct information, but she needs to clear it with Lisa Hessman and John Lynch from DPW, as they need to check to see if the information is correct.

MEMBER: Questioned if there are other events where you can make more awareness, such as St. Peter's carnival or the River Edge Fun Run.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Advised the Farmers Market is a good place and it is ongoing and she asked permission to have the Trex bin there for awareness purposes. Advised the Girls Scouts asked if they can be there with their poster regarding recycling, as they are working for their bronze medal. Indicated with the Trex bins, during the summer months to take the bins from the schools and place them at different houses of worship and have collections to raise awareness, in conjunction with having something in the bulletins.

PAM GUOLD: Suggesting placing one at the River Edge Swim Club.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Thought that was excellent idea and she will check with Councilman Bartelloni. Advised after six months of collecting the stretch plastic, she does not believe they are going to continue with collecting it as there is a lot of leg work in getting it to Trex.

MEMBER: Questioned about River Edge Day.

LAURA HOOGSTRATE: Stated River Edge Day is in October and that is the last day of the Trex Challenge. Stated they share a tent with the Green Team and they could put anything out that on that day.

MEETING ADJOURNED.