

Environmental Protection Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 16, 2017 7:30 pm

Present:

Laura Hoogstrate
Pam Gould
Patty Almberg
Brian Mitchell

Absent:

Eileen Boland
Mary Daly
Greg Ogden
Bonnie Stewart

Laura: Our River Sweep on October 7th was a success.

We provided volunteers with lunch, t-shirts, and Pam shuttled some volunteers back to Oradell after they came off the river

Scouts & adults from Troop 2295 helped take the canoes out of the river, cleaned the canoes and helped stack them on the trailers.

Jim Miller made suggestions about boat and boat shed maintenance and those requests were sent to the DPW through Tom Papaleo.

There was some discussion of dates for the next River Clean up in May.

Brian Mitchell moved to have it on Saturday, May 12th. Patty Almberg seconded the motion- 4/4 members in favor.

Laura will contact Caitlin Doran (from the Hackensack River Keeper) to see if that date can be put on their calendar.

Laura has been in contact with Susan Carney at RDHS about finding an interested student member for the Commission. Ms. Carney is rebuilding the RD Environmental Club and will bring this opportunity up with her members.

Laura announced that we are still waiting to hear from Bergen County Clean Communities about the status of our mini-grant application. Greg submitted a summary report from the clean up and Laura sent the photos. Hopefully we will hear soon.

We voted to add two additional meetings to our 2018 calendar. Brian Mitchell made the motion. Patty Almberg seconded the motion - 4/4 members voted in favor.

Patty: Laura and I met this summer with Mike Henzel, Holly Fox and Nancy Hafers to discuss ways in which the Commission could support eco-initiatives at Cherry Hill and Roosevelt Elementary Schools. Mrs. Havers has started a recycling club at each school with over 40 3rd & 4th grade students. (Patty is donating her time to help Nancy out with the meetings).

Patty: Long Beach Township has adopted a plastic bag ban for municipal stores. The ban will take effect in 6 months and will require patrons to bring their own bags. This might be something we should tackle in River Edge.

Pam: There are many municipalities in NJ that have signed their own Paris Agreement. This is something to bring up to members of the Town Council.

Laura: I can forward that information to our liaison, Ellen Busteded.

Laura: Councilman Daniel Park from Tenafly was at River Edge Day and asked if River Edge might like to join 5 other local municipalities in sponsoring the Northern Valley Earth Fair. We are still awaiting more information about this event and how we can get involved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.