



Minutes - Red Bank Environmental Commission

Location: Council Chambers, Borough Hall

Date: January 6, 2026

Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

LAST	FIRST	Attendance	TITLE
Godek-Johnson	Denelle	Yes	RBEC Member (Chair)
Almerini	Ana		RBEC Member (Vice-Chair)
Carlin	Scott	Yes	RBEC Member (Secretary)
Johnson	Dave	Yes	RBEC Member
Rodriguez Heyman	Paulo	Yes	RBEC Member
Leder	Jenna	Yes	RBEC Member
Massey	Megan	Yes	RBEC Member (Planning Board Liaison)
Schroder	Alix	Yes	RBEC Alternate #1
Sala	Luisa	No	RBEC Alternate #2
Facey-Blackwood	Nancy	Yes	RBEC Liaison to the Council
Blyskun	Helena	No	Green Team Member
McArthur	E. Pamela	No	Green Team Member
Wokas	Eric	Yes	Green Team Member
Trifiro	Sal	No	Green Team Member
Martin	Travers	No	Green Team Member
Harris	Dan	Yes	Green Team Member
Salinas	Oscar	No	Green Team Member (Parks & Rec)
Walton	Terrence	No	Green Team Member (DPU)

Agenda Details:

1. Attendance
2. Review/approve last month's meeting minutes; remit to Borough Clerk
 - a. Motion to Approve & Second (Jenna, Alix), Unanimous Approval.
3. Public/Guest Comment–
4. Current Initiatives - Round Robin
 - a. Updates from Liaisons
 - i. Council (Nancy Blackwood)
 1. Green Team members updated and renewed; listed on the Red Bank website posted by community engagement coordinator (Fatima Carranza)
 2. Red Bank offered to host Sustainable Jersey, Senior Center, for Monmouth Hub in February
 3. Upcoming information on energy and energy efficiency grants. Nancy's goal is to make Borough Hall as efficient as possible; LEED certification should be explored as one option.
 4. 52 trees to be planted at Marine Park.
 - a. *Information request: Does the Borough have a requirement for new trees planted by developers to be replaced if they die shortly after the project is completed?*
 - ii. Planning Board (Megan Massey)
 1. Bank of America site, 170 Broad St. Final Site Plan approval. (Across from Post Office.) Upgrades include signage, lighting, sidewalks, and drainage system.
 2. Preliminary approval - roof mounted solar system, Riverview Plaza garage (across the street from the hospital).
 - b. ~Admin
 - c. ~Miscellaneous
 - i. Sustainable Landscaping with Richard McCoy, NJ Horticulturalist of the Year–Rumson, 1/20/2026 Tuesday, 11 AM. Rumson Garden Club.
 - ii. HUB Meeting–confirm date/time
 - iii. Annual Report - Denelle will provide in February
 - d. Sustainable Jersey Certification
 - e. Marine Park–
 - f. Navesink River Subcommittee (Scott Carlin)
 - i. Waiting to meet with Jim Gant.
 - g. Ordinances
 - i. Native Plant–Paulo
 1. Room to improve ordinance from Eatontown and Chatham.
 2. Jan. 22 - this can be brought to Borough Council. Attorney could redraft the ordinance for Red Bank.
 3. Make sure it doesn't require home owners to rip out old plantings; focus is new developments like multifamily developments. Recommend native plant list. Invasives should be avoided.

- ii. Night Sky–Jenna and Pam
- h. Green Fair–Wednesday, April 22. JT proposes 5-6:30, Middle School has concerns re: attendance.
 - i. Attendance concerns
 - ii. Make it 1 hour this year
 - iii. River Center - financial support?
 - iv. Electric Lawn Equipment display
 - v. Collect old batteries, electronics, etc.
 - vi. Brick, NJ - Gold standard of Green Fairs. One person's job to pull it together. Lots of vendors. Brick is a much bigger town; outside of the cultural center under a tent. Weekend 4 hours.
 - vii. There are a lot of Spanish speaking parents; can we be more bilingual?
 - viii. Displays for native plants.
 - ix. Can vendors do more to promote the event?
 - x. Invite Colonial to table.
 - xi. Electric car display was a big hit a few years ago.
 - xii. Mazza - Recycling Display
- i. Website Updates
- j. Vaping - recycling batteries
 - i. Firmway - \$65 product; offer \$5 rebate for returns.
 - ii. This is technically hazardous waste.
 - iii. Flavored vapes are illegal in NJ but this is not enforced.
 - iv.
- k. Grants
 - i. Existing Grants
 - ii. Ideas for New Grants–
 - 1. SJ Grant (\$20K) use to retrofit storm drains (reduce inlet size, etc.)
<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/grants/pseg-cycle/>
 Due 2/13/2026
 If grant writer can include other funding that will help keep trash out of the Navesink (RiverCenter more trash cans/borough funding other items?), it will boost the likelihood that the borough receives the grant. They should include that our DPU works with COA to facilitate water quality testing.
 Alternate: replace do not retrofit existing storm drains.
 Borough will fund other items to keep the river clean; buy-in from the Borough would increase our chances.
 - 2. Storm Water Grant from NJ DEP
- l. Sustainable Lawn Maintenance
 - i. Gas-Powered Leaf Blower (GLB) Reduction
 - ii. Native Plantings
 - iii. Dates for education early 2026?
 - iv. Information for homeowners & homeowners with commercial landscaping services
 - v. Host at the library? 24th, 31st of March.
 - vi. Flyer you can share with commercial service re: what to request.

- vii. (Eric's signs are a big hit! Some residents want more signs.)
 - m. Food Waste and Composting
 - n. Renewable Energy
 - i. RGEA
 - o. Safe Drinking Water
 - i. Borough Drinking Water
 - ii. Lead in Pipes
 - p. Site Plans Review
 - q. Stormwater and Green Infrastructure
 - r. West Westside Pollinator Garden
- 5. New Initiatives
 - a. Proposed new contract with waste pickup - regular garbage, recyclables, compost (organics). Third pickup will be added to the bid process.
 - b. Add 1 to 7 plastics should be added to this.
 - c. Mandate plastic film for all pickups; why do you need to sign up for it? Drop off buckets for your neighbors.
 - d. Recycle Coach App, Maria Rotolo contact.
 - e. Maximum 30% recyclables permitted in your trash in NJ
- 6. Conclusion:
 - a. Next Meeting Date/Time: February 3, 2025, 7-8:30 PM; Council Chambers
 - b. Motion to close & second (Scott & Paulo); unanimous