



Meeting Minutes - Red Bank Environmental Commission

Location: Council Chambers, Borough Hall

Date: February 3, 2026

Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

LAST	FIRST	Attendance	TITLE
Godek-Johnson	Denelle	Yes	RBEC Member (Chair)
Almerini	Ana	Yes	RBEC Member (Vice-Chair)
Carlin	Scott	Yes	RBEC Member (Secretary)
Johnson	Dave	Yes	RBEC Member
Rodriguez Heyman	Paulo	Yes	RBEC Member
Leder	Jenna	No	RBEC Member
Massey	Megan	No	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	Yes	Green Team Member
McArthur	E. Pamela	No	Green Team Member
Wokas	Eric	No	Green Team Member
Trifiro	Sal	No	Green Team Member
Martin	Travers	No	Green Team Member
Harris	Dan	No	Green Team Member
Salinas	Oscar	No	Green Team Member (Parks & Rec)
Walton	Terrence	No	Green Team Member (DPU)

Agenda Details:

1. Attendance
2. Review/unanimous approval of last month's meeting minutes; remit to Borough Clerk
3. Public/Guest Comment–
 - a. Ginni Koehler, Shrewsbury Environmental Commission. Pesticide use in parks: how is Red Bank addressing this? Resolution 10-299, Tinton Falls - Pesticide Free Zones (2010). Red Bank was recognized in this 2010 resolution. IPM (Integrated Pest Management) is a helpful practice. Jon Gibbons is trying to put together a list of reputable landscapers that use organics. Is Red Bank active in Patchwork for Wildlife?
 - b. Denelle: We do not use pesticides in our parks; we can follow up with our DPU for an answer. We have another committee, Animal Welfare - headed by Mary Warner, that participates in Patchwork for Wildlife. We made a native rain garden (West Westside Ave.).
4. Updates from Liaisons
 - a. Council (Nancy Blackwood)
 - i. Storm drain inlets grant. Sustainable NJ. Grant due Feb 13. \$20K grant. 888 inlets in Red Bank. \$500 each inlet. We could replace 40 inlets.
 - b. Planning Board (Megan Massey)
 - i. Dr. James Parker Blvd. taking down a house and putting up 2 duplexes. We should expect to see site plans for this.
5. ~Admin
6. ~Miscellaneous
 - a. Sustainable NJ, Monmouth County HUB Meeting–February 9, 6:30 PM Senior Center (Monday). Skip the Stuff presentation followed by sustainable yards, vaping, etc.
 - b. Annual Report
 - c. April Meeting–4/7–will we have quorum? It's Spring Break. We will meet as scheduled
7. Sustainable Jersey Certification
8. Marine Park–duck-bill valves installed;
9. Navesink River Subcommittee
 - a. – February goal: Red Bank will replace two manholes in sanitary sewer and 30 ft. of pipe at Wharf and Union–waiting on temps to get above freezing.
 - b. NRMC Meeting will be Thursday, February 19 6:30 – 7:30pm**
 - c. Watershed Inventory: Red Bank is waiting for Phase 1 comments from NJ DEP. Phase 2. Red Bank needs input from NJ DEP re: their expectations.
10. Ordinances
 - a. Native Plant–Paulo–update
 - b. Night Sky–Jenna and Pam

11. Green Fair–Wednesday, April 22. JT proposes 5-6:30, Middle School has concerns re: attendance.

12. Website Updates

- a. Sustainable NJ wants us to promote their energy efficiency materials through our various online platforms and at our Earth Day event.
- b. Vape Trash initiative has been a priority. A lot of information from Tobacco Free NJ, EPA, and DEP. These websites have a lot of information on toxins. Supposed to be disposed of in household hazardous waste. 1,500 flavors of vape products - manufacturers are able to hide a lot of chemicals in flavoring. NJ outlawed flavored vapes but not enforced.

13. Grants

- a. Existing Grants
- b. Ideas for New Grants–
 - i. SJ Grant use to retrofit storm drains (reduce inlet size, etc.)
<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/grants/pseg-cycle/>
 - 1. Due 2/13/2026–met with grant writer & Mike Reiser 1/21.
 - ii. Storm Water Grant from NJ DEP

14. Gas-Powered Leaf Blower (GLB) Reduction–

- a. March 24, 6:30PM RBPL. Mary Warner - Wildlife. EC talking about electric equipment.

15. Food Waste and Composting

16. Renewable Energy

- a. RGEA

17. Safe Drinking Water

- a. Borough Drinking Water
- b. Lead in Pipes

18. Site Plans Review

- a. Comments Submitted re: 170 Broad St.
 - i. Replace existing tree tagged for removal with a native tree to mitigate the "heat island" effect in Red Bank.
 - ii. The current plan shuttles the stormwater runoff from the parking lot and roof areas directly to the municipal stormwater system, to be conveyed directly to the Navesink River, adding to the surface water contamination. This project creates an opportunity to divert the stormwater runoff into the groundwater, where it would be naturally filtered. This can be done by converting the planting bed to a bioswale with native plants and installing a subgrade stormwater detention system.
 - iii. To further reduce run off, install pervious asphalt.
 - iv. Consider DarkSky approved luminaires color temperature 3000k or less.
 - v. Provide a bike rack.

19. Stormwater and Green Infrastructure

20. West Westside Pollinator Garden

21. New Initiatives

22. Upcoming Public Events

- a. February 9, 6:30 PM, RB Senior Center, Sustainable NJ, Monmouth County HUB Meeting–

- b. March 24, RBPL 6:30PM, Gas-Powered Leaf Blower
- c. April 22. 5-6:30 pm, Middle School, Earth Day, Green Fair
- d. Support Shrewsbury Ave businesses, Tuesday shopping promotion

23. Conclusion:

- a. Next Meeting Date/Time: March 3, 2026, 7-8:30 PM; Council Chambers
- b. Motion to close - unanimous.