

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 9, 2016

8:00 p.m.

Chairwoman Kate Murphy called this meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:00 p.m. in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Municipal Building. Mrs. Murphy announced that all legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Kate Murphy (Chair.)	X	
Wolfgang Robinson		X
Ben Lampert		X
Brendan Keating	X	
John Dey	X	
John Tancredi	X	
Kevin Murphy	X	
Billy Conlan	X	
John Bitar		X
Carl Cappabianca	X	
Council Member Resto	X	

Public Comment

No one came forward.

New Business

Jackson Ave./Kelley's Pond Eagle Project – Matt Piechnik, Troop 8

Matt gave a power point presentation of his proposed restoration of a trail on Jackson Avenue. This trail runs from the end of Jackson Avenue through the woods towards Kelley's Pond behind Milton Ave. School, and meets up with another trail behind Milton.

Matt reported that currently the trail overflows and floods when it rains. Serious soil erosion results. Matt is proposing a drainage and erosion prevention system for the trail. He distributed and explained photos he had taken of the existing conditions of the trail. An existing drain has filled up with silt.

Matt is proposing to install three railroad ties on the trail to prevent further soil erosion. These ties will also hold in place the French drain system which Matt will

also install. An existing drain pipe will be dug up. The water flooding the trail will be drained off into the Passaic River. The goal is to make a more permanent trail for the public to use. Matt went into more detail about the French drain and the gravel that will be put down for the trail. Matt pointed out the natural flow of the water on the trail. His proposals will help the flow reach the river. Water currently gets deep on the trail.

A Commissioner asked who would be funding this project. Matt answered that hopefully, if the project received official approvals, the Borough Council will pay for it. The project expenses will be a little over \$100.

Council Member Resto recommended that Vince DeNave, the Borough Engineer, should review these plans. Commissioners confirmed with Matt that he had the manpower (other scouts) to undertake this project. Mr. Tancredi informed Matt that if the Borough approves his project, he will need a beneficiary. The Commission will serve as the beneficiary. Mr. Tancredi agreed to be the representative/liaison from the Environmental Commission for this project.

A motion was made/seconded to approve Matthew Piechnik's proposed Eagle Project, pending the Borough Engineer's review. All Commissioners present approved the motion.

Resolution #16-06

The meeting minutes of February 10, 2016 were approved with Council Member Resto's corrections. Mr. Tancredi and Mr. Keating abstained from voting, because they were absent from that meeting.

Correspondence

Chairwoman Murphy reviewed the correspondence recently sent to the Commission:

- 1) A letter from the Alliance of Morris County Parks are looking for internships
- 2) Information from ANJEC on what it can do to help Environmental Commissions
- 3) A notice from PSE & G informing the Borough that they will be mowing the grass on Woodland Road
- 4) An e-mail from Solar City asking to participate in any future Green Fairs the Commission may hold
- 5) An e-mail from Coldwell Banker offering to help out at the May 7th Clean-up Day in the Borough

Council Member Resto reported on an e-mail concerning Rotondi & Sons on River Road snowplowing too close to the Passaic River, violating DEP rules. DEP has given Rotondi fifteen days to clean up this snowplowing situation, or fines will be imposed.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Ms. Holler reported that the Board has approved the minor subdivision proposed for 64 Hedges Ave. The Board's public workshop for the new Master Plan was very well attended on February 18th at the Chatham Library. The Board will be hearing an application in the near future concerning a River Road property.

Borough Council

Council Member Resto reported that the DPW has made improvements the roadways of the Borough Recycling Center. They have spread gravel and other material into the potholes. Council Member Resto will look into further improvements. Also, the Borough will be doing some sewage work on the Minisink/Rutgers Street area.

Community Garden

Council Member Resto noted that 94% of the Garden has been claimed by local gardeners. Some of the smaller gardening plots are still available. Almost everyone has paid for their plots. It looks like a good season for the Garden.

Boy Scouts

Mr. Tancredi noted that about 15 Boy Scouts in Troop 8 are working on their Life Projects, and eventually will move onto Eagle Scout projects. A number of the Scouts are doing Eagle projects outside Chatham Borough. Mr. Tancredi will be reaching out to other Boy Scout troops concerning possible Eagle projects. Mr. Tancredi volunteered to serve as the Commission's liaison to the Boy Scouts. He also suggested the Commission, for their April 30th Clean-up Day, designate a particular area for a Life Scout Project for interested Scouts. It could be a one-day project. Mr. Murphy reported that Troop 28 has five Scouts who need Eagle projects to undertake. Mr. Tancredi noted that Mayor Harris's list of Eagle projects needs to be updated.

Rain Garden

Mr. Cappabianca reported that he didn't find any discarded items in the Rain Garden after the snow melted. Volunteers will mulch the garden on May 7th, the Borough Clean-up Day.

Eco-Films

Chairwoman Murphy said there was nothing new to report.

Report on NJ League of Municipalities

Council Member Resto stated that the League has recommended to the State that Sustainable Jersey implement a gold certification.

Pilgrim Pipeline

Council Member Resto reported that he will be giving a presentation to the Borough Council this Monday night to give a status of the Pipeline's progress. His presentation will also include information on the Municipal Pipeline Group. This Pipeline Group will include mayors from the different communities where the proposed pipeline will run through. Letters will be sent to communities that haven't responded to join the Pipeline Group. Council Member Resto noted that money is starting to be set aside by area communities to fight the pipeline.

Council Member Resto reported that Pilgrim Pipeline has submitted permits in New York State. As soon as the Pilgrim Pipeline files permits in New Jersey, the NJ Municipal Pipeline Group will be ready to protect their interests.

Environmental Badge Award

Chairwoman Murphy noted that posters and articles are now up, inviting residents to participate in this program. We'll see what the response will be.

Status of Budget

Chairwoman Murphy noted that after this Monday's Council Meeting, the Commission will see how much money it has. Council Member Resto pointed out that the Commission still has grant money remaining.

Explore Chatham

Mr. Conlan will have a report at the next meeting. Mr. Dey reported that he had recently walked one of the trails. He suggested a possible way to promote the local trails on social media. There are websites that specialize in hiking and running trails.

Commission Website

Mr. Dey noted that there was an item advertising the Eco House contest, which closes down this April 15th. He asked Chairwoman Murphy if she had received any response to that posting on the website. She said no, not yet. Mr. Dey will be reaching out to Mr. Lampert to share ideas about revising the web site.

Sub-Committee for Flyer of Recycling Tips

Mr. Murphy and Council Member Resto reported that the Morris County MUA had three pages of good recycling tips. Mr. Keating suggested possibly some of the tips could be printed on recycling bin stickers. Commissioners felt that suggestion could be explored further. Related to that, Mr. Murphy reported Morris County MUA wanted to participate in any future Green Fairs held by the Borough. Council Member Resto pointed out that the Mayor's Wellness Fair will be held in September. Perhaps MCMUA would like to take part.

Direct Install Breakfast

Council Member Resto reported that the breakfast will be held at the end of April. Some of the remaining grant money will be used for that event.

Plastic Bag Initiative

Mr. Lampert was not present to give a report.

Inventory of Borough Easements

Mr. Robinson was not present to give a report.

Joint Trail Projects with the City of Summit

Council Member Resto will touch base with the Mayor of Summit in May regarding this project.

Trail Cleanup e.g. Passaic River, Wuhala Woods, Milton Woods

Chairwoman Murphy reported that local Boy Scouts have offered to help with the cleanup. She will write an article for Tap into Chatham inviting volunteers to the Cleanup.

Educating the public about medication disposal

Council Member Resto will contact Police Chief Crosson about asking the DEA to select a permanent location in town for medication disposal.

Use of Neocotinoids in Landscaping

Mr. Dey offered to assist Council Member Resto in doing a report on Neocotinoids in laymen's terms.

ANJEC grants for Open Space stewardship

Chairwoman Murphy noted that ANJEC is asking the Commission to write something up for these grants. Chairwoman Murphy offered to do the write-up and take some photos of our local trails. The grant money could be used towards cleaning up these trails.

Also concerning the trails, Mr. Tancredi will contact Stan Serbanica at the DPW about delivering the chips for the Trail Cleanup Day on April 30th.

Miscellaneous Announcements

Chairwoman Murphy reminded Commissioners of the ANJEC Seminar: Environmental Commission Training to be held Saturday, March 19th, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Morris County Cultural Center.

On March 24th, 5:30 p.m., Council Member Resto and Chairwoman Murphy will participate in a panel discussion at Drew University about recycling.

At 9:17 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 8 p.m., Room 212, middle level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary