

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 11, 2015 8:00 p.m.

Minutes

Chairman Len Resto called this Environmental Commission meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Municipal Building. Mr. Resto announced that all legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Len Resto, Chairman	X	
John Tancredi	X	
Dick Plambeck	X	
Carl Cappabianca	X	
Ben Lampert	X – arrived 8:20 p.m.	
Brendan Keating	X – arrived 8:30 p.m.	
Kate Murphy	X	
John Bitar		X
Council Member Alida Kass		X
Liz Holler, Rec. Sec.	X	

Mr. Resto noted that Mr. Keating is attending a Morris County Board of Freeholders meeting tonight to ask them to pass a resolution against the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline.

Public Comment

No one came forward. The Public Comment time was closed.

Resolution #15-06

The meeting minutes of February 11, 2015 were approved as submitted.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Resto passed around the following correspondence recently sent to the Commission:

- The Long Hill Township Environmental Commission meeting minutes, two sets
- A purchase order from the Borough

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Ms. Holler reported that the Board will be discussing a presentation recently given by Peter Hoffman, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Planning Board is scheduled to meet on March 18th.

Borough Council

Council Member Kass was not present to give this report.

Open Space & Historic Preservation Trust Advisory

Mr. Resto hopes to get this group up and running again.

Community Gardens

Mr. Plambeck reported that the Community Gardens have organized their subcommittees. As soon as the snow is gone, the Gardens water supply will be turned on, and the plots will officially be prepared for plantings.

Eco Films

Mrs. Murphy noted that on April 2nd the film “Birders” will be shown at the Library of the Chathams.

Boy Scouts

Mr. Tancredi reported that Michael Iofreddo is proposing an Eagle Scout project to clean up a very overgrown courtyard behind the library at Chatham High School. No real Borough approval is needed; however the Superintendent of Schools has to give his okay. Another Boy Scout is proposing a Life Service Project to install a rope rail at the far end of the Shepard Park. Mr. Tancredi said he had advised this Scout there may be legal problems if someone got injured on the Shepard Kollock Park trail. Instead, Mr. Tancredi suggested to the Scout that a serious clean up the Shepard Kollock berm would be much appreciated.

Mr. Tancredi noted that there are at least a half dozen Scouts who will be looking for Eagle Scout Projects in the near future. He asked the Commissioners to think of any priority projects they could undertake. Mr. Tancredi reported that the Boy Scouts will stay on top of the Wuhala woods project that Grant Hauck had proposed. It may become a troop service project. Mr. Tancredi pointed out another Scout project would be cleaning up the area around Kelley’s Pond.

Rain Gardens

Mr. Cappabianca reported that the gardens are looking good; however, there is still snow on top of all the plantings.

Pending Business

Member Vacancy

Mr. Resto reported that he has two people he’s trying to interest in joining the Commission. Mrs. Murphy pointed out that Mrs. Kamionek, the mother of a visiting Boy Scout, had expressed an interest in joining.

SJ Grant

Mr. Resto noted that there is money left over from the Anti-Idling sign project, of approximately \$1,600. The Commission had made a formal request to extent this grant money. So far ANJEC hasn’t responded yet. Commissioners discussed possible options the money could be used for. Mr. Tancredi suggested the Commission sponsor some environmental films for children. The Magic School Bus has produced some environmental films. Other possibilities were discussed.

ANJEC Grant

Mr. Resto noted that ANJEC is offering a \$1,500 grant if a compelling project was proposed. Mr. Plambeck pointed out a boat launch at Shepard Kollock Park could be installed above the dam. Mr. Tancredi suggested a sign could be installed to warn canoers that a dam is ahead. At

Mr. Plambeck's suggestion, Mr. Tancredi offered to do a write-up on this Passaic River dam situation and take photos to apply for this grant.

Pilgrim Pipeline Update

Mr. Resto reported that the telephone conference that had been scheduled with Pilgrim Pipeline for March 5th was postponed. It has been re-scheduled for March 19th, 8 p.m., in Room 212.

Explore Chatham Photo Contest

Mrs. Murphy noted that the Photo Contest awards will be given out this Saturday, 10:30 a.m. in the Commons Room, Chatham Firehouse. She reviewed some of the nice prizes donated by local businesses.

New Business/Discussion Items

Mr. Resto reported on a letter that the Mayor had sent him from Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll. This concerns some surplus land, part of the Tri-Borough Road, available for sale. This property could easily become part of Wuhala Woods. Mayor Harris has instructed Mr. Falzarano to start the process in purchasing the land. Mr. Plambeck pointed out that the triangle piece of this property, owned by the DOT, has remnants of an old tennis court belonging to Minisink Swim Club years ago, before the Passaic River was re-routed.

Sustainable Jersey

Mr. Resto reported that Sustainable Jersey has upgraded its web site. A training session was held today at 11:00 a.m. Unfortunately most Commissioners are at their jobs at that time of day. Another session will be held on Monday, March 16th at 7 p.m. Mr. Resto will try and take part in that session.

On other matters, Mr. Plambeck reported that on Saturday, April 11th Kiwanis will hold a Service Day to commemorate the Kiwanis 100th Anniversary. Chatham Township Committeewoman Ann Swartz will coordinate all the proposed projects for that day. Mr. Plambeck told her that he would bring it up at tonight's Commission meeting. April 11th is generally when the Commission holds their Trail Clean-up Day. Commissioners discussed what needed to be done on the trails, and the availability of chips. Depending on the weather, the river may be too high to work on the Shepard Kollock trails. As another possible project, Mr. Keating mentioned that an environmental inventory map needs to be done to eventually prove what would be impacted by the Pilgrim Pipeline.

Mr. Keating reported that the County Freeholders were very receptive tonight to his Pipeline presentation. He reviewed what information he had given them to indicate what entities will be impacted by this pipeline. The Borough of Madison has recently passed a resolution protesting the Pilgrim Pipeline.

At 8:45 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 8 p.m., Room 212, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary