

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
April 8, 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	
Brendan Keating	X – arrived 8:28 p.m.	
Kate Murphy	X	
John Bitar		X
Council Member Kass		X
Liz Holler, Rec. Sec.	X	

Public Comment

No one came forward.

Resolution #15-07

The meeting minutes of March 11, 2015 were approved as amended.

Correspondence & Articles

Mr. Resto passed around the meeting minutes from the Long Hill Twp. Environmental Commission.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

In Mr. Bitar's absence, Ms. Holler reported that the Board is still working on revisions to their Bylaws. The Board will also be reviewing FAR regulations in the near future with Dr. Blickstein, the Borough Planner. Ms. Holler reported that the Zoning Board approved a small "manhole" beer brewery, Twin Elephant, to operate at 13 Watching Ave.

Borough Council

Council Member Kass was not present to give a report.

Community Gardens

Mr. Plambeck reported that the Gardens will open this Saturday, provided conditions are not too muddy. Applications have been submitted by residents from outside the Chatham area. A fence will be worked on this Saturday. The Garden's shed is in place.

Boy Scout Activities

Mr. Tancredi reported that Boy Scout Michael Iofreddo has received approval from his troop to clean up a neglected courtyard at CHS as an Eagle Scout Project. Approval from the District Advisor still needs to be obtained. If all goes well, Michael should be starting his project in April. Mr. Tancredi discussed a project at Milton Ave. School that is being proposed by another Scout, Tommy Guy. Utilizing a grant given by Whole Foods, Tommy wants to construct five raised vegetable garden beds in a horse-shoe shape. Time is very limited for this project and the grant has a number of caveats. His troop may turn this proposal into a service project.

Mr. Plambeck will be meeting soon with Boy Scout Michael Kellstrom about his Eagle Scout project at Stanley Park.

#### Eco-Film

Mrs. Murphy reported that the film “Birders in Central Park” recently shown at the Library was very well done and well received. The next Eco-Film will be “Promised Land” starring Matt Damon.

#### Pilgrim Pipeline

Mr. Resto reported that the Pilgrim Pipeline Advisory Committee members held a telephone conference with Pilgrim Pipeline officials on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Another telephone conference will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Resto noted that Pilgrim Pipeline’s environmental study has been delayed because of the extremely cold weather.

#### ANJEC Training

Mr. Resto noted that Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Keating had attended this training. Mrs. Murphy said it was a very comprehensive course. The course offered a great deal on the environmental uses inventory.

Mr. Keating gave Mr. Resto a business card from a lady at Drew University who might be helpful in providing **community** mapping for the Commission in connection with the Pilgrim Pipeline. Mr. Resto will contact her.

#### ANJEC Grant

This grant will not be happening for the Commission; however, a larger grant will be coming up soon for trail work.

#### Photo Contest

Mrs. Murphy reported that the contest went well. The winning photos are on display in the hallway at Borough Hall.

#### Sustainable Jersey Grant Extension

Mr. Resto is still pursuing SJ to see how much of an extension they will grant us. Mr. Tancredi pointed out that the State wants the Commission to use what grant money we already have. Mr. Resto agreed that the money should be spent. So far SJ won’t give a simple yes or no answer regarding the extension.

#### Rain Garden

Mr. Cappabianca reported that the Rain Garden is coming alive again. He will be cleaning it out on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mulching will be done by himself and other volunteers. Work on the Rain Garden will coincide with the Borough's Clean-up Day. Mr. Tancredi offered to contact Stan Serbanica at the DPW for a woodchip delivery for the Rain Garden.

#### Trail Clean-up

Mr. Plambeck noted that the Trail Clean-up will take place this Saturday, 9:00 a.m. at Shepard Kollock Park. If enough volunteers are available, Mr. Plambeck will have the picnic tables moved. He advised those Commissioners wishing to participate, that if no volunteers are seen in the vicinity of the pavilion, they should proceed on towards the trail itself.

Regarding future Clean-ups, Mr. Resto pointed out that Kelley's Pond needs attention. A Clean-up Day will be held in May.

#### Community Mapping

Mr. Keating reported that the Chatham Business group is focusing on this project this month. Bob Morris from Chatham Twp. will be spearheading it.

#### New Business

#### Pervious Land Covering

Mr. Resto discussed a recent application that had been heard by the Zoning Bd. of Adjustment. The Bank of America was seeking permission to pave an existing gravel parking lot on Center Street. Mr. Resto expressed serious concerns about losing even more pervious land on Center Street and creating serious drainage issues. He also felt the proposed performing art center, if constructed, will take away important pervious land on the school property.

Referring to Zoning regulations, Mr. Plambeck explained that the percentage of required pervious coverage went down as the size of the lot increased. For very small lots, more pervious area can be taken than on a larger lot. Mr. Plambeck pointed out that gravel driveways count as impervious coverage in zoning applications. In many applications with drainage concerns, the Borough Engineer has required that a detention system be installed. Dry wells have often been required.

#### Summer Clean-ups

Mr. Resto asked Commissioners to think about summer clean-up work at possibly Shepard Kollock Park or Wuhala Woods. Mr. Tancredi said if it was a dry summer, perhaps chips could be brought in and spread on these sites.

#### Miscellaneous

Mr. Plambeck reported that there will be a Recycling Awards Luncheon, not the usual Annual Dinner, in the near future. He reported that Chatham Borough still produces the highest poundage of recycling per person per month. Mr. Plambeck will send the actual numbers to Mr. Resto to submit to Sustainable Jersey.

On other matters, Mrs. Murphy discussed the excessive leaf-blowing going on in town now with winter gone. Perhaps the Commission could make a public statement **advising** residents that their lawns don't have to be super pristine. Mr. Lampert suggested residents could be encouraged to vacuum and shred their leaves instead.

Mr. Cappabianca asked what was the status on the surplus land, the part of the Tri-Borough Road, that was available for sale. At the last meeting, it sounded like Chatham Borough was interested in buying that land. Mr. Resto answered that the sale is in the works; however, it's a slow process.

At 9:05 p.m. the Commission meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, **8:00 p.m.**, Room 212, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris