

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
September 14, 2016

8:00 p.m.

Chairwoman Kate Murphy called this meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:03 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	
John Tancredi	X	
Ben Lambert	X	
Brendan Keating	X	
Carl Cappabianca		X
John Dey	X	
Wolfgang Robinson		X
Council Member Len Resto	X	
Kevin Murphy	X	

Public Comment

There was none.

Resolution #16-11

The minutes for the Environmental Commission meeting for July 13, 2016 were approved as amended.

Correspondence

Chair Murphy passed around the following mail sent to the Commission:

- 1) A notification from the Morris County Soil Conservation District concerning a property on Highland Ave.
- 2) A notice from TransCo, a gas pipeline company, informing the Commission that regular maintenance work will take place in the Borough. Council Member Resto took this particular mailing to look over more closely.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Ms. Holler reported that the minor subdivision proposed for 150 Center Avenue was approved by the Board. Construction has begun on the two new homes. Also, the Planning Bd. and the Borough Council will be holding a joint meeting on Wednesday night, September 21st to discuss and vote on the new Affordable Housing Plan for Chatham Borough.

Borough Council

Council Member Resto reported the Council has put in for the Morris County Park Commission's Trail Grant. The Borough has asked for \$90,700. The Park Commission will

announce the winner in December. The grant would help create a loop trail around the baseball diamonds at Shepard Kollock Park. The existing trails, from Shepard Kollock's boat ramp to Summit Ave./Tallmadge Ave., will be replenished with new chips.

Council Member Resto reported that the Joint Meeting Sewage Plant will be updating a capacity study which was done in 2008. The Jt. Meeting wants to see what is the current capacity, since the re-designation of the Gateway/River Road District. If new development comes to fruition in this district, it would impact the sewage plant. This study will take two or three months.

Council Member Resto thanked Chair Murphy, Kevin Murphy, and John Dey for all their work at the Sustainability Fair held on Saturday, September 10th.

Council Member Resto reminded Commissioners of ANJEC's Annual Environmental Congress which will be held on Friday, September 30th, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Mercer County College.

Council Member Resto reported that the Borough Council, for the 2017 Budget, is looking for money to finally obtain permits and dredge Kelley's Pond.

Community Gardens

Council Member Resto reported the sad news that Farmer Paul Suszcynski who was active in the Community Gardens Committee passed away suddenly. The Community Gardens Committee is looking for volunteers to take over his duties.

Boy Scouts

Mr. Tancredi reported that Steve Piccari, from Troop 8, for his Eagle Project, has constructed three birdhouses and a kiosk at Kelley's Pond. Mr. Tancredi noted that the Borough Council has already approved this project, since they didn't want to delay this project any further. The Environmental Commission still has to formally approve this project.

Mr. Tancredi made a motion to approve the Eagle Scout Project proposed by Steve Piccari of BSA Troop 8, Chatham. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted "aye".

Rain Garden

Chair Murphy reported from Mr. Cappabianca's e-mail. Mr. Cappabianca informed her that Green Path will be planting in the fall. Green Path has pointed out that some of the recent growths in the Rain Garden are weeds. Therefore, Mr. Cappabianca will be holding a fall clean-up day for the Rain Garden.

Pilgrim Pipeline

Council Member Resto reported that the Municipal Pipeline Group has now officially formed, consisting of 15 municipalities who will protect their interests. If and when Pilgrim file for their permits. In mid-August the DEP reached out to the advocacy groups and asked to meet with them. Council Member Resto felt it was a very productive meeting.

Pending Business

Farmer's Market

Chair Murphy reported that the Commission will have a table set up at the Farmer's Market for September 24th and October 15th. She asked for volunteers to staff the table and be on hand to talk to the public about Commission activities. Hopefully new members will be recruited.

Environmental Badge Award

Chair Murphy reported that she has created a flyer inviting local businesses to participate in this Environmental Badge competition. The Commission will pick the winner on October 15th.

Commission Website

Chair Murphy confirmed with Mr. Dey that the Commission already has a website. It is included in the Chatham Borough website. Mr. Dey would like the Commission kept alive with current topics to keep visitors coming to the website. Council Member Resto offered to write an update about the Pilgrim Pipeline. An article can be done about the Borough's Rain Garden. Some Commissioners felt a Facebook page would be more effective in keeping residents aware of current Environmental happenings. Mr. Keating went ahead and set up a Facebook page for the Commission during this discussion.

Plastic Bags

Mr. Lampert noted that the supermarkets still give out the plastic grocery bags in droves. Plastic bags are also used for sandwiches and other food items. Mr. Lampert discussed the track benches that can be made with recycled plastic grocery bags. He suggested the Commission decide on three locations to install bins for recycling plastic bags. Mr. Lampert noted that 50,000 plastic bags, a certain weight of bags has to be reached, to create one bench.

Council Member Resto suggested one of the bins be installed in the southwestern corner of King's parking lot. Mr. Lampert recommended that the plastic bag collection should start in November and carry on through April. Residents will be encouraged to store up their plastic bags in the winter months.

Mr. Keating suggested the Commission work towards the goal of obtaining enough plastic bags to obtain a memorial bench in memory of Farmer Paul Suszcynski.

Mr. Dey said that this project could be reported on the Commission's new Facebook page.

Mr. Lampert said the Commissioners will know by next spring whether they can get a bench and what the response of collecting plastic bags will be.

New Business

Eco Challenge

Chair Murphy discussed a possible new project for Sustainable Jersey points. She reported on a website which encouraged people to change one habit to improve the environment. She

distributed copies of the “Eco Challenge Sheet” for Commissioners to look over. A Princeton group has already challenged Chatham Borough in this competition.

At 9:01 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 8:00 p.m., Room 212, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris