

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 14, 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 read aloud the Statement for Adequate Notice for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Len Resto, Chrnm.	X	
John Tancredi	X	
Carl Cappabianca		X
Ben Lampert	X (arrived 8:18 P.M.)	
Brendan Keating	X (arrived 8:23 P.M.)	
Kate Murphy	X	
John Bitar		X
Council Member Kass		X
Liz Holler, Rec. Sec.		X

Three visitors were present: John Dey, Billy Conlan and Wolf Robinson.

Public Comment

There was none.

Resolution #15-13

The meeting minutes for the Commission meeting of September 9, 2015 were approved as amended.

Correspondence

1. We had a letter from the representatives of the Environmental Firm used by National Manufacturing at 12 River Road regarding their soil remediation response to the New Jersey DEP. Unfortunately, the report is only responsive to topsoil remediation and there appear to be leaching issues with respect to ground water affecting the area at least 200 feet away from the property. The 200 foot inclusion affects several properties on Girard Ave. Mr. Tancredi took the report to do additional investigation and to speak with Mr. DeNave about any other environmental issues at the site. He will report back at the next EC meeting.
2. We received an invitation to an Oil & Gas Pipelines information session to be held on Wednesday, October 21st in Morristown at 5:30 P.M. The session includes a light supper. The session is being sponsored by several oil & gas companies; so, Mr. Resto and Mr. Keating observed the information to be disseminated may be a bit in their favor. Mr. Keating expressed an interest in attending. Mr. Resto may attend if work obligations permit.

3. We received a letter from Dynamic Engineering Consultants on behalf of the proposed Barth Market Building Expansion in New Providence, which will be within a riparian and flood zone. Comments concerning the expansion are due to the DEP by no later than October 29th. Mr. Resto informed the Commissioners that he had viewed the map and had no concern about the project. The Commissioners agreed.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

In Mr. Bitar's and Ms. Holler's absence, prospective member, Wolf Robinson, a member of the Planning Board, reported there have been no applications to review of late. Mr. Robinson noted that the Board will be considering engaging a consultant for assistance in re-writing the Borough Master Plan in the near future.

Borough Council

Council Member Kass was not present to give a report.

Community Gardens

Mr. Resto reported that with the cooler weather and the soon to come frost and freeze, gardeners are busy shutting down their plots and putting down a cover crop for the late fall and winter season. Mr. Resto indicated we needed either a volunteer from the EC to agree to attend Community Gardens meetings or a Community Gardens Committee member willing to attend EC meetings to give a report. Conversely, Mr. Resto can correspond with the Community Gardens Committee to obtain their report and give it at the EC meeting. This need has come up with Mr. Plambeck's departure from the EC.

Boy Scouts

Mr. Tancredi reported that the scouts project two projects. One will be at St. Patrick's Church where a restoration will be done at the front area replacing pavers, securing the walls of the lawn and installing planters. Scout Jack Dean has completed a project at the Community Bee Garden where he constructed a shed which rain overflow is captured in 3 rain barrels to help with nectar and honey made by the bees. It would be the bees source of water.

Rain Garden

Mr. Resto reported that the Garden looked good with some late flowering plants in full bloom and mentioned we should be grateful for the good care provided the Garden by Mr. Cappabianca.

Eco-Film Series

Mrs. Murphy reported that while the EC may still have a few films for adults during the course of 2016, she had been in contact with John Arthur, the Children's Librarian and he suggested a book reading for pre-school age children on a Saturday morning. Mrs. Murphy will coordinate this to see if this attracts more interest than our usual Thursday evening showing of a film.

Pending Business

Resolution 15-14- Resolution To Mail A Copy Of The September 9, 2015 Minutes To The Family of Tristan Thomas

Mr. Resto explained this was being done as a gesture to the Thomas' family that their son had been remembered and honored at the September 9th EC meeting. Mr. Tancredi, who knows Mr. Al Tristan well, indicated that Mr. Tristan is grieving in his own way and he felt it would be best not to send a copy at this time. Mr. Tancredi also mentioned that the minutes to the meeting would be available online and if Mr. Thomas wanted to access them there, he could at his convenience. The EC agreed to table the resolution.

Sustainability Fair

The Commissioners present felt the Fair was a success, that we had an excellent location being the first table right past the Farmer's Market and that we had good traffic.

Environmental Badge Award

Mr. Resto wished to get this off the ground and asked for volunteers to create a sub-committee tasked with developing criteria by which a household would qualify for an Environmental Badge and how they would be selected. Once criteria are developed, they can be presented to the entire EC for a vote. Mr. Resto, Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Tancredi will make up the sub-committee.

Pilgrim Pipeline Developments

Mr. Resto indicated that several New Jersey unions were banding together in support of the Pipeline because they claim it will create 2,000 jobs. Mr. Resto stated that the unions are being somewhat misled because Pilgrim's past practice has been to bring in outside union labor familiar with working on pipelines. Mr. Resto didn't have any idea what Pilgrim or others might have said or promised the New Jersey unions. In addition, Pilgrim has retained the services of a lobbying/public relations firm in Princeton to lobby legislators and agency officials on the pipeline. Finally, Mr. Resto asked Commissioners to follow the newspapers for the wedge Pilgrim is trying to create between Bergen County and other counties on the issue of pipeline vs. rail. Mr. Keating stated that Former Governor Dick Codey's assistant has heard rumors concerning a new alignment for the Pilgrim Pipeline along the Route 287 corridor. Mr. Keating also reported that Florham Park has passed an ordinance, similar to Chatham Township, banning pipelines altogether.

Sustainable Jersey

Mr. Resto reported that Sustainable Jersey had informed the Borough that it had been Silver Certified for 2015 with 505 out of 360 points needed for Silver Certification. Mr. Resto thanked the "Green Team" for all their hard work in making this a reality. Mr. Resto will be attending the Sustainability Jersey luncheon on November 17th in Atlantic City to receive the award.

ERI Updates

Mr. Resto admitted he was the bottleneck in getting the updated ERI to the Planning Board for inclusion in the Borough Master Plan. He promised to get the update scanned at work as his home scanner was not capable of handling that large a document. He will have this done and out to Mr. Bitar before our next meeting.

Budget Submission for Fiscal 2016

Mr. Resto reported that the Commission's budget is still under review and no final budget figures have been released.

Environmental Commission Website Improvements

Mr. Lampert had agreed to take on this assignment. Unfortunately, he hasn't been able to do a "deep dive" into our EC page. Mr. Dey agreed to assist. We advised both Mr. Lampert and Mr. Dey that changes would be given to Borough Clerk Robin Kline who would make sure they would get onto the Borough website. Mr. Resto suggested something catch for any upcoming events, such as the Eco-Films, be on the front page of the Borough website so when a resident were to click on the link, they would automatically be taken to our site. Mr. Conlan suggested a Facebook page and perhaps a blog.

Explore Chatham

Mr. Conlan indicated that due to pressing school work, he had not had a chance to review what Mr. Plambeck had done with the walking trails for people to follow, to get exercise, and discover things about Chatham. Mr. Plambeck had proposed that markers be installed where people can put their on their iPhone and learn about a particular landmark. Mr. Conlan felt that using iPhone apps might be the way to go.

New Business

Recycling Tips

Mr. Resto noted that Morris County MUA has recognized that many jars and plastic containers have not been adequately cleaned out before they are deposited for recycling. It gums up the sorting system. Especially troublesome for the MUA are peanut butter jars and jelly/jam jars. A sub-committee will be established to put together a tri-fold or a piece to go with the Mayor's Annual Letter to remind people to clean out their containers.

County Solar Panel Project

Mr. Keating indicated that the Freeholder Board would be seeking public comment on solar panel projects which will be next in line to move ahead. Among these are solar panels to be installed on the roof of Chatham High School. Mr. Keating urged the EC to "bone up on the matter" and to voice their support.

ANJEC Environmental Congress

Mr. Resto and Mr. Dey both attended the ANJEC Environmental Congress held at Raritan Valley Community College in Branchburg, NJ on October 7th. Mr. Dey and Mr. Resto reported on each of their sessions and felt the day was very worthwhile.

With time running short, the remaining 4 items on the agenda will be forwarded to the next meeting's agenda.

At 9:15 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, 8 p.m., in Room 212, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary