

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
December 9, 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 of Adequate Notice for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Len Resto, Chairman	X	
John Tancredi	X	
Carl Cappabianca		X
Ben Lampert		X
Brendan Keating	X – arrived 8:05 p.m.	
Kate Murphy	X	
John Bitar	X – arrived 8:05 p.m.	
Council Member Kass		X
Liz Holler, Rec. Sec.	X	

Four visitors were present: John Dey, Kevin Murphy, Bill Conlan, and Wolf Robinson.

At the time of Roll Call, a legal quorum was not present. When Mr. Keating and Mr. Bitar arrived five minutes after the Roll Call, a quorum was then reached.

Public Comment

There was none.

Correspondence

Mr. Resto reported that ANJEC dues for 2016 are \$300. If the Commission pays an additional \$60, Commissioners could then attend all the ANJEC workshops for free in 2016.

Commissioners approved of paying the \$360 to ANJEC for the new year. Mr. Resto will submit the bill to the Borough CFO, Mr. Dey.

Mr. Resto asked Commissioners if they wanted to pay 2016 membership dues for the Passaic River Coalition (\$125). Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Resto felt it would be wise to keep in touch with this Coalition with the Pilgrim Pipeline situation on the horizon.

Mr. Resto noted that the Commission has received an inquiry from a resident who wanted to know the boundary of her property and a water way. The letter mentions the property at Block 98, Lot 2. Mr. Resto will consult with Mr. DeNave, the Borough Engineer, about this matter.

Resolution #15-14: Resolution to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for the Commission meeting of November 11, 2015 were approved as amended. Mr. Bitar abstained from voting because he was absent that night.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Mr. Bitar reported that a Joint Meeting was held on December 2nd between the Planning Board and Chatham Borough Council. Mr. Resto added that the Joint meeting involved the two entities filing a Declaratory Motion regarding the affordable housing number assigned to Chatham Borough.

Community Gardens

Mr. Resto reported that the gardens are dormant this time of year; however, because of the recent warm temperatures, crops have been breaking through their garden covers.

Boy Scouts

Mr. Tancredi reported that Scout Van Benedict is in the process of finding volunteers to help him with his Eagle Scout project in Wuhala Woods. On other matters, the Boy Scouts on the national level, have changed the requirements for Life Rank. An environmentally-related project, not just a service project, must be undertaken. Mr. Tancredi also reported on bench projects being proposed by the Scouts.

Rain Garden

Mr. Resto reported that Mr. Cappabianca has offered to clip back the plants that have been growing in the Rain Garden during this mild weather.

Eco-Film Series

Mrs. Murphy said that the series is now easing off. A better response from the public would've been appreciated. She stated that she's willing to work with any Commissioners wishing to continue this series. Mr. Keating suggested showing the documentary, Gas Land II again, since the Pilgrim Pipeline is unfortunately making progress.

Mr. Tancredi pointed out that since now that the Boy Scouts must complete hours on an environmentally- related project for their Life Badge, the Scouts could show an environmental film series to the children and serve refreshments. Some of the Scout troops have their own projectors. The film series could be held on Saturday mornings either at the Library or at Ogden church where the troops meet.

Pilgrim Pipeline

Mr. Resto reported that Pilgrim Pipeline has now filed its permits in New York State. An environmental impact study is involved. By law, this impact study must be publicly posted on the Pipeline's website. Mr. Resto encouraged Commissioners to read it.

Pending Business

Appointments to the Environmental Commission at Council Meeting 1/4/16

Mr. Resto reported that the new appointments to the Commission will be announced at the Borough Council Reorganization Meeting on January 4th.

Preliminary Thoughts on Officers for 2016

Mrs. Murphy kindly offered to serve as Commission Chairman for 2016.

Mr. Resto reported that Mr. Lampert has offered to serve as Secretary for the Commission.

Environmental Badge Award

Mrs. Murphy described the posting that the Commission that will read: “2016 Environmental Sustainable House of the Year”. A nomination form will be created. An explanation will be given as to how submit a nomination. Three awards will be given at a luncheon. Mr. Tancredi suggested three different categories for the prizes. For instance, an award can be given to a home that has been renovated within the past year, and has done an excellent with environmentally friendly materials.

Mr. Resto suggested Saturday, May 14th for the awards luncheon. Mrs. Murphy and the Commissioners agreed on that date.

Status of Budget

Mr. Resto reported that he hasn't heard yet from Mr. Dey on this topic.

Explore Chatham

Mr. Conlan explained the Facebook he had created for the Commission. Events could be posted on the Facebook. Mr. Keating brought up some of the local pages that are available on Facebook.

Commission's Website

Mr. Dey will meet with Mr. Lampert on proposed updates for the website.

Status of Budget

Mr. Resto reported that there is \$1300 left over in a Sustainable Jersey grant. Some of the grant money can be used for the Environmental Badge award. Some of the money will be used for the Direct Install program. Mr. Resto and Mr. Britt will be working on establishing a time, date, and location for this program. There will be money left over for the Commission to print fliers on recycling tips to distribute at Farmer's Market and other Borough events.

EPA Website

Mr. Resto reported that he had contacted the EPA. They admitted their website was a dead link. However, EPA will look into making the link come alive again.

Plastic Bags Initiative

Mr. Resto will be contacting Madison and Chatham Township on the Plastic Bags Initiative. It's hoped that their Environmental Commissions could approach their local supermarkets to quit using plastic grocery bags. Customers should be encouraged to use either paper bags or their own canvas bags.

New Business

Inventory of Borough Easements

Mr. Robinson noted, being a member of the Planning Board, he has been curious of where the Borough easements ran. He would like to pursue this research. Commissioners agreed that this project would be of great benefit to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Planning Board, and

the Environmental Commission. Mr. Resto advised Mr. Robinson that eventually a subcommittee could be formed to help him with this project.

Sustainable Jersey \$20,000 Grant – Kelley’s Pond – Ideas from Mr. Torello at DPW

Mr. Resto reported that Mr. Torello has informed him that Kelley’s Pond is now degrading. The entire boundary of the pond is slowly caving into the water. Mr. Torello wants to stabilize the boundary by using some form of liner, stopping the erosion. Sustainable Jersey has four \$20,000 grants available. Mr. Torello wants to apply for one of those grants for this pond improvement project. Mr. Torello believed that the total cost of the project will come to \$40,000. If the grant money is awarded to the town, the Borough may come up with the matching \$20,000.

Joint Trail Projects

Mr. Resto said he will reach out to the new mayor of the City of Summit about this project.

Prioritizing which Project Needs Most Attention, e.g. Passaic River Trails, Wuhala Woods, Milton Woods, etc.

Mr. Resto noted from a recent walk he took, Wuhala Woods is not in good condition. Mr. Tancredi suggested Commissioners see what progress the Boy Scouts make on refurbishing the trails. Commissioners can then take it from there.

Before adjourning, the Commissioners expressed sincere thanks to Mr. Resto for serving as their Chairman. We wish him the very best on his upcoming term on the Borough Council.

At 9:12 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 8:00 p.m., in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary