CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
January 9, 2013 8:00 p.m.

In Chairman Tancredi's absence, Vice Chairman John Bitar called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Name	Present	Absent
John Tancredi		X
John Bitar	X	
Councilman Resto	X	
Cynthia Steffens	X – arrived at 8:15 p.m.	
Dick Plambeck	X	
Ruth Dekker		X
Joan Thuebel		X
Ed DiFiglia	X	
Liz Holler, Rec. Sec.	X	

Also present were Green Initiatives members Carl Cappabianca and Kate Murphy.

At 8 p.m. a legal quorum of Commissioners was not yet present.

Liaison Reports
Planning Board
Mr. Bitar reported that the Board has formed a sub-committee, headed up by Council Member Fife, to study the M Districts in the Borough. The sub-committee will be analyzing the uses in these districts. Council Member Fife will be chairing the sub-committee.

Borough Council
Council Member Resto reported that the Borough has asked Waste Management to empty out the Recycling Center's bins more frequently. By noontime on Saturdays, the bins have been close to overflowing. The recent Electronics Recycling collection held by the Borough went reasonably well. Council Member Resto also reported that Terracycle, run by the CHS Environmental Club, continues with their collection of cell phones, etc.

Mr. DiFiglia asked if recycling items, specifically used furniture, were being collected for Sandy victims. Mr. Bitar said he will contact Morris Restore to see if such a collection could be done in Chatham. Mr. Plambeck suggested Madison Borough be contacted since they are helping residents in Union Beach NJ.

Open Space & Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee
Mr. DiFiglia said a meeting will be held in late January.

Community Gardens
Mr. Plambeck noted that a meeting will be held on January 24th. The Community Gardens Committee is still waiting to see what the impacts will be from the impending PSE & G project. Regarding the possibility of creating gardens on River Road, Mr. DeNave's surveys still need to be done.

At 8:15 p.m. Mrs. Steffens joined the meeting. A legal quorum of commissioners was now present.

Mr. Bitar read aloud the Public Notice Statement.

Review/Approval of Minutes
The meeting minutes of December 12, 2012, second draft, were approved as submitted. Mr. Bitar abstained from voting because he was absent from that meeting.

Correspondence/Articles
Mr. Bitar reviewed a notice from ANJEC for membership renewal.

Green Initiatives
Mrs. Steffens reported that the latest Eco Film, "Gas Land", was very well attended at the Library. On February 7th, 7:30 p.m., another film "The Weight of the Nation" will be shown. No Eco film will be shown in March, since that particular meeting room is needed for the Library's Annual book sale.

Resolutions for Andrew & Charles
Council Member Resto reported that he had the resolutions ready. He will have Chairman Tancredi sign them. Hopefully the resolutions will be ready to be read at the Commission's February meeting.

Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Recertification
Mrs. Steffens distributed and discussed her report: "Suggested Initial Plan for SJ Recertification". (See attached). She reported that all the necessary sections are in place. However, the charts and the ERI may need updating. Mrs. Steffens recommended an action project for recertification be done in 2014. Any unfinished items would be dealt with in 2015. Chatham Borough will try for 500 points. Mr. Plambeck suggested a focus be put on what items needed updating.

Merger of CBIG and CBEC
Mr. Bitar recommended that the number of Green Initiative members will fill in the vacancies now available in the Environmental Commission. Council Member Resto said he will contact the Borough Clerk about current openings on the Commission.

Commission Nominations
Mr. Bitar suggested that this process take place at the next Commission meeting. Mr. Tancredi should be present.

2013 Projects

Mr. Plambeck felt work should be done on additional trails. Interns from the high school and college could help with this project. He also recommended that the Commission's website be updated.

Council Member Resto said he would like to see continued meetings with Summit about possible trails between Chatham and Summit. Discussions with Summit on this project have fallen by the wayside.

Mr. Plambeck urged Commissioners to decide on the date and location of the Spring Trail Clean-up. Mr. Bitar suggested the Commission get some professional landscape assistance, using some of the Commission's budget money.

Mrs. Steffens noted that the Rain Garden could use some maintenance work.

Mr. Plambeck pointed out that the corporations sometime provide volunteers for team-building projects, like cleaning parks.

Green Fair 2013 Committee

Mr. Bitar noted that he needs more volunteers to prepare for the Fair.

Ms. Murphy, from Green Initiatives, talked about the "E Fair", which is held every year by the Environmental Club at Chatham High School. This Fair is geared more towards the younger children. Perhaps the E Fair and the Commission's Trail Clean-Up could be combined and held at Shepard Kollock Park.

Council Member Resto said he will call Waste Management to schedule a tour of their facilities for the CHS Environmental Club.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Plambeck brought up the subject of re-planting of trees after Superstorm Sandy. He asked if the Borough Shade Tree Commission had any plans on this matter. Council Member Resto pointed out that there is currently a lack of membership on the Shade Tree Commission. The Commission would like to work with JCP & L on local trees that have been compromised and need to be either cut down or pruned. A number of trees on private property also need pruning. The Shade Tree Commission could educate residents on this situation.

At 9:00 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2013, 8 p.m., Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Holler

Elizabeth Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris
Chatham Township Environmental Commission
Long Hill Township Environmental Commission
Bernards Township Environmental Commission