

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 13, 2013 8:00 p.m.

Chairman John Tancredi 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
Dick Plambeck	X	
Ruth Decker	X	
Joan Thuebel	X	
Ed DiFiglia	X	
Liz Holler, Rec. Sec.	X	

Also present were Carl Cappabianca and Kate Murphy.

Resolutions for Andrew & Charles

Mr. Tancredi welcomed Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Holloway, mothers of Charles and Andrew respectively. These young men, away at college, had worked very hard on the “Explore Chatham” program this past summer.

Councilman Resto read aloud the following resolution:

Resolution 13-01 of the Environmental Commission, Borough of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, thanking Charles Ross and Andrew Holloway for their assistance in launching the Explore Chatham Project in 2012,

WHEREAS the Borough of Chatham Environmental Commission sought to engage the expertise of Borough residents to assist former Mayor Dick Plambeck with the “Explore Chatham” trail mapping initiative; and

WHEREAS college students Charles Ross and Andrew Holloway possessed the requisite skill sets to assist the Commission and stepped forward to assist former Mayor Plambeck with the “Explore Chatham” project at no cost to the Borough; and

WHEREAS Messrs. Ross and Holloway’s skills and expertise were instrumental in creating and launching the web-based “Explore Chatham” project ahead of schedule; and

WHEREAS the “Explore Chatham” project will benefit not only the Borough’s residents and visitors, but also residents from surrounding towns, by encouraging passive recreation and providing historical knowledge of Chatham through the creative use of new technologies; and

WHEREAS without the selfless efforts of Messrs. Ross and Holloway, the Explore Chatham project may not have come to fruition;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Chatham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, express their heartfelt

appreciation of the volunteer efforts of both Charles Ross and Andrew Holloway, and wish them every success in their chosen fields of study. They have provided a valuable service to the community, which will endure for many years to come.

Councilman Resto noted that this Resolution was signed by himself and Chairman Tancredi.

Each mother received a framed copy of this Resolution. Chairman Tancredi stated that these young men did a fantastic job on this project.

Thank you to Barb Montague

Chairman Tancredi thanked Barbara Montague for her years of service on the Environmental Commission. On behalf of the Commission, Mr. Plambeck presented to Mrs. Montague a tote bag of interesting travel books for her future journeys.

Review/Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of January 9, 2013, second draft, were approved as submitted. Chairman Tancredi and Ms. Thuebel abstained from voting because they were absent from that meeting.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Tancredi reviewed the following mail items:

- Purchase order for the Green Fair stickers
- An invitation to visit a booth at the League of Municipalities Convention
- ANJEC Winter Report for 2013
- Long Hill Twp. Environmental Commission meeting minutes
- A memo from the Borough Clerk's Office requesting an Annual Report from the Commission

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Mr. Bitar reported that Susan Favate has been elected the new Chairperson of the Planning Bd. at their Reorganization meeting. The Board also approved a Waiver of Site Plan Review/Change of use for Inner Grace, a dance studio, to operate at 170 Main Street.

Borough Council

Councilman Resto reported that Councilwoman Fife will be spearheading a Clean-up Day for downtown Chatham on April 20th, the same day as the Commission's Trail Clean-up. He also reported that the Borough's recycling contract is coming up for re-bid. Councilman Resto passed around an e-mail that Mr. DiFiglia had sent him, showing a staircase and ramp that would make life easier for residents to empty their recyclables into bins at the Recycling Center. Councilman Resto suggested this be included in the RFPs to see if any vendors respond. On other matters, the Borough continues negotiations with PSE & G regarding the Community Gardens.

Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee

Mr. DiFiglia reported that a number of topics were discussed at a recent meeting. The Committee looked into updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan for Sustainable Jersey. Another topic was the Borough selling properties that could not be developed. Also, Mr. DiFiglia reported that the Committee discussed the possibility of Green Team members taking turns writing a column for the local newspaper describing the work that they do.

Mr. DiFiglia said the Committee will try and hold another meeting in mid-March.

Community Gardens

Mr. Plambeck gave an up-date on future gardens on River Road. A survey still needs to be done, after the snow melts. Mr. Plambeck suggested a presentation be done before the Borough Council explaining what is being proposed. He also pointed out that encroachment is still going on at River Road.

Green Initiatives

In Mrs. Steffen's absence, Councilman Resto reviewed her e-mail reporting on the Green Initiatives activities. Chatham Borough was awarded Silver Certification by Sustainable Jersey. A well-attended Eco Film was held last week at the Library. The film was about obesity and its consequences. A water taste test will be the next event held at the Library by Green Initiatives. Maintenance work will be done on the Rain Garden in the spring.

Merger of CBGIC & CBEC – New Commissioners

Mr. Tancredi noted that the Environmental Commission was interested in the Green Initiatives merging with the Environmental Commission. Green Initiatives Members Carl Cappabianca and Kate Murphy indicated that they would like to join the Environmental Commission. Councilman Resto said he would obtain the necessary applications for them to fill out and submit. Another resident has expressed an interest in joining the Commission. Councilman Resto will look into whether or not another seat could be created on the Commission.

Nominations/Appointments

Mr. Bitar nominated Mr. Tancredi to be Chairman of the Environmental Commission. Mr. Plambeck seconded the nomination. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted Aye. Mr. Tancredi abstained.

Mr. Bitar was elected Vice Chair of the Environmental Commission.

Ruth Dekker was elected Secretary of the Environmental Commission.

Green Fair 2013 Committee

Mr. Tancredi noted that Mr. Bitar is heading up the Green Fair. Mr. Bitar asked for help from Commissioners this year.

At this point, it wasn't clear how much, if any, Chatham Township will be participating in the Green Fair. Mr. Bitar will reach out to Steve Carroll in the Township to see what degree the Township would like to participate. Mr. Tancredi noted that, unlike last year, there will be no large tent available for the Fair. Mr. Bitar brought up the idea of having the Green Fair combined with another local event, like a community garage sale. Possibly a blanket permit could be obtained. Mr. Tancredi reported that the Boy Scouts are starting plans for a big PR recruitment display at the Green Fair. Also, Commissioners felt that prizes should be solicited a little earlier this year. Mrs. Montague offered to work on improved signage for the Fair.

Mrs. Dekker discussed information she had about yard waste being picked up curbside. Waste Management has this item on their website. She will e-mail the info to Councilman Resto.

Recycling Contract

Councilman Resto noted that the RFP won't be done until July. Any input from the Commissioners is welcome. The contract will be awarded in September.

New Business/Discussion

Eagle Project at Milton Woods – Brian Goldstein

Mr. Tancredi reported that he is working with local Scout Brian Goldstein who is looking to build a deer enclosure in Milton Ave. woods. This project is in the preliminary stages. Brian will be inviting Mr. DeNave, the Borough Engineer, to walk the area with him. He needs permission to do this project on Borough property. If permission is obtained, Brian will probably begin work starting in the Spring and continuing through the Summer. Brian will have to pursue his own funding for this project.

Life Scout Project at Shepard Kollock (Trail Head) – Landon Paulson

Mr. Tancredi noted that Stan Serbanica from Public Works has recently dropped a large pile of chips at the trail. Landon has received permission from his Scout Leader to work on the Trail head. Mr. Tancredi has met with Landon and his father to discuss this project. Much of the existing trail will still remain. The Trail Head will come in about 20 feet off the dam. Mr. Tancredi will see if another pile of chips could be delivered for Landon. Landon will try and have this project done before the Commission's Clean-up day.

Trail Clean-up – April 20

Ms. Murphy reported that the Environmental Club at Chatham High would like to participate that day. The girls are thinking of running games at Shepard Kollock for the young children whose parents are helping with the clean-up.

Mrs. Dekker offered to work on the flier advertising this event. Youth ministers at local churches could be contacted to enlist help from teens.

Commissioners decided that clean-up work could be done at both Shepard Kollock Park and Stanley Park. Regarding Stanley Park, Mr. Bitar reported that a Planning Board sub-

committee is looking at present conditions in the M Districts. Enforcement is needed in these districts. If Stanley Park becomes more accessible with these trail clean-ups, hopefully more visitors will drop by that section of town.

Other 2013 Projects

Mr. Tancredi asked Commissioners if they had any pet projects that needed attention. Mr. Plambeck suggested summer interns could work on "Explore Chatham". Mrs. Dekker suggested developing Wuhala Woods.

At 9:31 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 8 p.m., Room 212, 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