

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
 March 12, 2014 8:00 p.m.

Chairman John Tancredi called this meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Municipal Building. Mr. Tancredi announced that all legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
John Tancredi	X	
John Bitar		X
Cynthia Steffens	X – arrived 8:45 p.m.	
Dick Plambeck	X	
Ruth Dekker		X
Ed DiFiglia		X
Carl Cappabianca	X	
Kate Murphy		X
Len Resto	X	
Council Member Alida Kass	X	
Liz Holler, Rec. Sec.	x	

Review/Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of February 12, 2014 with Mr. Plambeck’s corrections were approved.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Plambeck distributed flyers on a future presentation: “The Passaic River – Its Problems, Progress and Possibilities”. The presentation will be given at the Library of the Chathams on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. It will be given again on March 26<sup>th</sup> for the Great Swamp Watershed Association.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

In Mr. Bitar’s absence, Ms. Holler reported that the Planning Board recently held a Capital Review hearing for additional parking at Washington Ave. School. The Board could not vote on this project; however, they voiced a number of recommendations to the applicant, the School District of the Chathams.

Borough Council

Council Member Kass gave a progress report on the bee-keeping arrangement for River Road that is making progress. Mrs. Kass and Mr. Tancredi discussed the \$20,000 grant recently obtained for the electric car charging station. Commissioner Cindy Steffens has worked hard on this project. Possibly a cost analysis could be done. If all goes well, the location of the charging station still has to be decided. The charging station will bring more people into Chatham, giving a boost to our downtown businesses.

Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee

Mr. DiFiglia was not present to give an update.

Community Garden

Mr. Plambeck noted that another lottery will be held at the next Community Garden meeting for additional plots.

Pending Business

Trail Clean-Up May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Mr. Tancredi will ask Mr. DiFiglia to spearhead this project. Mr. Tancredi will contact both Boy Scout troops to help out. Mr. Tancredi explained the chip situation. A great deal depends on whether the weather freezes or not. Unfortunately Stan Serbanica from the DPW will be unavailable on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Bat Houses

Mr. Tancredi reported that Griffin Kenny's project was signed off on tonight by the Troop 8 Committee. Griffin will be seeking an Eagle Scout advisor. Griffin will be clearing the path all the way around Kelley's Pond. Quarter inch gravel will be put down on the path. Mr. Tancredi reviewed the changes Griffin will be making on his pipe work for the bat houses. These changes will hopefully make the bat houses more vandal-proof. Griffin will be starting work in the next couple of weeks.

SJ Certification

Mrs. Steffens distributed flyers for Commissioners to post. She reported that, as of now, Janice Piccolo at Borough Hall, is the one official Borough contact for SJ Certification. Mrs. Steffens distributed an updated SJ jobs list to Commissioners.

Mrs. Steffens asked if any Commissioners wanted to report on progress they had made on their SJ assignments.

Mr. Resto reported that he has met with Jennifer Kaplan on the Creative Team to get that launched. A mission statement will be established.

At 9:01 p.m. Council Member Kass departed from the meeting.

Mr. Cappabianca reported that he is trying to update the Commission's website.

Mr. Plambeck reported on the progress he has made on the ERI.

Mrs. Steffens discussed the anti-idling assignment. Any purchases done with the anti-idling grant money, will have to be reported by September. On other SJ assignments, Mrs. Steffens noted that she needed to purchase more Eco films.

Regarding the anti-idling signs, Mr. Tancredi asked Mrs. Steffens to send him how many signs were in the budget and who the vendors are. These signs can be stored here at Borough Hall and distributed accordingly.

Mrs. Steffens noted that she has a press release on Green Challenges that needs to be reviewed and sent out.

Mrs. Steffens discussed her concerns about the \$600 for the Direct Install Breakfast which is supposed to be held for local businesses. Ten SJ points could be earned if this event takes place. At the breakfast, the business owners will be told how to do Direct Install and save on their energy bills. An elected official from the town would have to be present. She had a list of businesses to send invitations to; however, she felt a little discouraged at this point. Mr. Plambeck suggested Al Brown, from Liberty Drugs, be contacted about this event. Vince DeNave, the Borough Engineer, should also be included.

Mrs. Steffens reviewed what Eco films will soon be available for public showing. She noted that the Water Conservation Education project is going well.

Mrs. Steffens suggested having SJ displays for two Saturdays at the Farmer's Market.

Mrs. Steffens noted that the Green Team has to be separated, as a subcommittee, from the Environmental Commission by ordinance, to obtain 10 points.

Mr. Tancredi suggested tabling Sustainable Jersey at this point. It was starting to get late in the meeting. Before the next Commission meeting, contacts can be made to find out which SJ assignments still needed work. The Commissioners absent tonight still have to report on the progress, if any, they have made on their SJ assignments.

#### New Business/Discussion

##### Sub Committees and Responsibilities

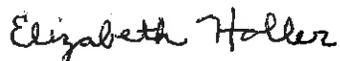
Mr. Tancredi felt that there weren't enough Commissioners present tonight to go over this agenda item.

On other matters, Mr. Plambeck summarized the 2014 MCMUA Recycling Rates Per Capita for January through February.

At 9:50 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held Wednesday April 9, 2014, 8 p.m., Room 212, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:



Elizabeth Holler  
Recording Secretary