

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 13, 2013

8:00 p.m.

In Chairman Tancredi's absence, Commissioner Dick Plambeck called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Municipal Building. Mr. Plambeck announced that all legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
John Tancredi		X
John Bitar		X
Councilman Resto	X	
Cynthia Steffens	X	
Dick Plambeck	X	
Ruth Dekker	X	
Joan Thuebel		X
Ed DiFiglia	X	
Carl Cappabianca	X	
Liz Holler, Rec. Sec.	X	

Review/Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of February 13, 2013, second draft, were approved.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Plambeck reviewed the mail received by the Commission:

- A thank you note from former Commissioner Barbara Montague regarding the lovely gift the Commission had given her last month.
- An announcement from Positive Promotions regarding Earth Day
- Meeting minutes from the Chatham Township Environmental Commission
- A flyer announcing a paper-shredding event on May 4th benefiting the Senior Services of the Chathams. The event will be held at the Chatham train station.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Mr. Bitar was not present to give this report.

Borough Council

Councilman Resto discussed the recent lighting ordinance considered by the Borough Council. The Council had listened to comments by Mr. Maher of Center Ave. Revisions were then made to height standards and spillage of the light specified in the ordinance.

Open Space & Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee

Mr. DiFiglia noted that the Committee's next meeting will be held the evening of March 21st. The Committee has submitted their first article to the local newspapers. Chatham Patch has published a condensed version.

Community Garden

Mr. Plambeck reported that there will be no Community Garden this year on Division Avenue due to the PSE & G construction. Chatham Patch has recently published an article on this situation. PSE & G has requested that a distance of 130 feet be maintained between their monopoles and the garden. The Community Garden Committee will be looking at alternate sites for the future. Councilman Resto discussed the communications that were held between PSE & G and the Community Garden representatives and the Borough Officials about this matter.

CBIG – Eco Film April 4

Mrs. Steffens passed around an announcement from Sustainable Jersey Webinars regarding a program: “Planning for Recertification” to be held the morning of March 19th.

Regarding the Eco Film on April 4th, Mrs. Steffens discussed the possibility of holding a water taste test event. Holding this test would contribute points towards the Borough’s Sustainable Jersey Recertification. Councilman Resto suggested a panel discussion of three experts be held after the Eco Film. He suggested that Mr. Plambeck be the moderator of the panel discussion. Mr. Plambeck agreed to serving as moderator and finding the panelists. It was decided that a water taste test will not be held that night.

Mrs. Steffens will do a press release for this event. She passed around a sign-up sheet for the donation refreshments for the Eco Film.

On other matters, Mrs. Steffens discussed the Companiable Animal Management Pledge. If the Borough Council passed a resolution supporting companiable animal management practices, five points could be earned for Sustainable Jersey. Councilman Resto offered to make arrangements for the needed resolution to go before the Council.

Recertification

Mrs. Steffens reported she is continuing work on this project.

New Commissioner Status

Mr. Cappabianca was warmly welcomed by the Commission as a full member. Mr. Plambeck reminded Mr. Cappabianca that his term expires at the end of this year. He will have to remember to renew his membership in December.

Green Fair – 2013

Council Member Resto noted that Mr. Bitar will hold a kick-off meeting for the Green Fair Committee in early May.

Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Plambeck noted that Boy Scout Brian Goldstein is looking to construct a deer enclosure in the Milton Ave. woods, on Borough property, as an Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Plambeck is advising Brian on what type of fencing is available. He is also

encouraging Brian to apply for the Hornaday Award, an award for conservation projects done by Scouts.

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

Mr. Plambeck reported that Landon had planned on starting his Trail Head project; however, the recent storms have made him postpone work until April 1st.

Trail Clean-up April 20th

Mr. Plambeck noted the beautiful flyer done by Mrs. Dekker for this event. Mrs. Dekker reported that she has forwarded the flyer on to Tony Britt, to combine it with a flyer he has created. Councilman Resto has drafted a press release on this event. Mr. Plambeck said he will walk the River Road area with Stan Serbanica to assess what clean-up is needed. There's a great deal of broken glass and some landscaping work to do. For the Clean-up day, Mr. Plambeck suggested the Commission make a list of job details and the appropriate age group for each job. Mrs. Dekker and Mr. Plambeck felt that clean-up at Stanley Park would not be appropriate for the younger Girl Scouts. Wuhala Woods may be better for them. Mrs. Dekker suggested a Commissioner be stationed at each clean-up site to tell volunteers which work area needed attention.

Councilman Resto will be meeting with Tony Britt to make a unified flyer for this event.

Rain Garden

Mrs. Steffens reported that she has asked Green Path for recommendations on plantings and mulch amounts. She will also see if Sprout House will be holding a plant sale again this year. There's a chance that the Rain Garden can obtain plants at wholesale prices at this event.

Community Spring Clean-up Day – April 20th 2013

Mr. Plambeck will attend the next meeting for this event. This particular clean-up project will concentrate on the Borough's Main Street and immediate parks.

Nat Geo Film – April 23, 2013

Mrs. Steffens explained how to obtain tickets for this event to be held at the Morristown Community Theater. She also distributed a flyer announcing a National Geographic event to be held at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown on Tuesday, April 23, 8 p.m.: "Witnessing Change: A Call to Action". Mrs. Steffens suggested a press release be done for local newspapers. Council Member Resto suggested a copy of the flyer be given to Carol Nauta to put on the Community Bulletin Board on Channel 21.

Photo Contest

Mr. Plambeck distributed a flyer announcing a photo contest to be held. This contest will be a joint sponsorship between the Environmental Commission and the Open Space & Historic Preservation Advisory Committee. This photo contest will promote the "Explore Chatham" project. All photographers from ages 8 and older may participate.

Photos should be taken outdoors in Chatham Borough. Categories include plants, animals, wild life, unusual weatherscapes, and historic sites.

Mr. Plambeck suggested that local merchants be approached to donate prizes for this photography contest. Mr. Plambeck will e-mail Commissioners a copy of the photograph contests rules and regulations.

Mr. Plambeck discussed also holding a Treasure Hunt project for local items and locations. Perhaps the Girl Scouts would be interested in creating this contest.

Polystyrene & Food Waste Recycle

Mr. Plambeck noted that the new Recycling Contract is coming up. At a Council Meeting, Borough Administrator, Bob Falzarano, had brought up the possibility of recycling food waste. Council Member Resto pointed out that in the RFP for recycling, food waste collection could be included. Some thought had been given to include construction material and some types of plastic, styrophone peanuts, electronic devices to also be included. Waste Management may be agreeable to collecting these items.

Council Member Resto said he will contact Princeton and see how they handle their food waste recycling. Mr. Plambeck said he will talk with a contact/friend at King's Supermarket about this situation.

Mrs. Steffens brought up the possibility of a polystyrene ban in town. Such a ban would be tough to enforce on the Chatham businesses. Council Member Resto said the Scouts could approach the business to not use polystyrene cups and containers.

Open Space Grant

Mr. Plambeck confirmed with Commissioners that they had received news of an available ANJEC grant for \$1500. The deadline is June 15th. Should we apply for this grant?

Mrs. Steffens pointed out that 80 volunteer hours are needed for this grant. Perhaps the Commission trail clean-up would qualify for the hours. Mr. Plambeck said he will follow-up with Chairman Tancredi on this matter. Council Member Resto believed it would be a good idea for the Commission to apply for the grant.

Mrs. Steffens asked if an ERI update will be done this year. Mr. Plambeck said he will contact Kate Murphy and see if a high school student could work on the needed elements. Mr. Plambeck noted that the Commission should have another look at the Open Space Plan. Council Member Resto said that Mr. DeNave, the Borough Engineer is looking at that Plan.

At 9:38 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 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