

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
April 11, 2013 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	
Dick Plambeck	X	
Ruth Dekker	X	
Joan Thuebel	X	
Ed DiFiglia	X	
Carl Cappabianca	X	
Liz Holler, Rec. Sec.	X	

Ms. Kate Murphy was also present.

Review/Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of March 13, 2013 were approved as amended.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Tancredi reviewed the mail received by the Commission:

- Meeting minutes from the Chatham Township Environmental Commission
- Draft of a resolution for responsible pet ownership in the community. (Mrs. Steffens asked that this item be tabled at this time)
- Announcement of a paper-shredding event on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Chatham train station benefiting Senior Services.
- ANJEC seminar on May 4<sup>th</sup> regarding T & E laws

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Mr. Bitar said he had no report.

Borough Council

Mr. Plambeck explained how the replacement process works to fill the vacancy created by Council Member Resto's resignation. The Commission will eventually learn who will be their new Council Liaison.

Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee

Mr. DiFiglia said he was unable to attend the last meeting.

### Photo Contest

Mr. Plambeck gave an update on the photo contest between the Environmental Commission and Open Space & Historic Preservation Advisory Committee. Judges for the photos are needed.

### Community Gardens

Mr. Plambeck reported that notices have been sent to all Community Garden members. The gardens will have to be dug up and removed. Some items, such as the gates, will be saved hopefully for a future garden. The DPW will level off the ground. Mr. Plambeck noted that there are 4 possible locations in the Borough for a new Community Gardens. Borough Council members will walk these sites. Mr. Tancredi believed there was a grassy area just beyond the Borough Recycling Center. Mr. Plambeck will have a look at that area.

### CBGIC – Eco Film

Mrs. Steffens reported that the film “Flow” held on April 4<sup>th</sup> was a success. A good discussion ensued after the film.

### Nat Geo Film – April 23 at Mayo Performing Center, Morristown

Mrs. Steffens announced that the sponsor of this film, “Witnessing Change: A Call to Action” has now made it a free event. Chatham Borough gets 25 free tickets. Please let Mrs. Steffens know if you would like one of the tickets.

On other matters, Mrs. Steffens distributed a sign-up sheet for the Borough’s Spring Community Clean-Up Day. Please indicate your size on the form.

Mrs. Steffens also passed around information on a Sustainable Jersey event to be held at Sparta next Tuesday.

Mrs. Steffens noted that work on the Chatham Rain Gardens will be held the same day, April 20<sup>th</sup>, as the Trail Clean-up. The Garden will be worked on from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. She reviewed what new plantings will be going in and who financed them.

Mrs. Steffens is still working on Sustainable Jersey certification.

### New Commissioners Status

Chairman Tancredi confirmed with Mr. Cappabianca that he was officially a Commissioner.

Ms. Murphy will submit the necessary paperwork to become a full Commissioner.

### Green Fair 2013 Committee

Mr. Bitar will be setting up a Green Fair meeting soon. Any Commissioners interested in serving on the Fair Committee, please let him know. Mr. Tancredi offered to serve on the Committee.

### Eagle Project at Milton Woods

Mr. Tancredi reported that this project is still in the planning stages. Brian Goldstein is working on his write-up. Brian still has to meet with the Borough Engineer.

### Shepard Kollock (Trail Head) – Landon Paulson

Mr. Tancredi has reminded Landon if he hasn't started work on the Trail Head by April 20<sup>th</sup>, the two piles of mulch at Shepard Kollock will probably be used by the trail clean-up volunteers.

### Trail Clean up – April 20, 2013

Mr. Plambeck noted that the DPW has done a good job cutting up the trees that have fallen. In Stanley Park, some leveling could be done. Stones could be put down to keep the ground from washing out.

Commissioners noted that large banners have been put up in town asking for volunteers for the Clean-up. Mr. Cappabianca has not received any word about assistance from Aveda. He understood that Aveda is flooded with numerous requests for assistance.

Mr. Plambeck said he will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers from Kiwanis. Mr. Plambeck will coordinate the volunteers and clean-up work at Stanley Park. He will also contact Stan Serbanica at the DPW for another delivery of chips at the end of Tallmadge Ave. Commissioners reviewed which locations they will be stationed.

### Photo Contest – A Joint Sponsorship between the Environmental Commission and the Open Space & Historic Preservation Advisory Committee

Mr. Plambeck reported that the Borough Council approved a resolution supporting this photo contest. The Borough Attorney has drafted the waiver of liability. An e-mail will probably be set up for residents to enter the contest. The contest will be advertised on the Community Bulletin Board. Judges are needed for this contest. Judges cannot participate in the contest.

Mr. Plambeck could use help with this project, particularly with the computer work involved.

### Polystyrene and Food Waste Recycle

Commissioners believed polystyrene recycling would probably be a good project for Scouts to undertake. Perhaps Scouts could visit local eateries and urge the owners to use eco-friendly cups and plates. Recycling food waste in municipalities is not feasible. This particular collection seldom can be kept pure food.

### Open Space Grant

Mr. Tancredi noted that the Commission can apply for this ANJEC grant of \$1500. Brian Goldstein could ask the Commission for a share for his Eagle Scout Project, depending on how extensive he wants to take it.

At 9:10 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on May 8, 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