

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 14, 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.

Names	Present	Absent
John Tancredi	X	
John Bitar	X	
Cynthia Steffens	X	
Dick Plambeck	X	
Ruth Dekker		X
Ed DiFiglia	X	
Carl Cappabianca		X
Kate Murphy		X
Len Resto	X	
Council Member Alida Kass		X

Review/Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of April 9, 2014 were approved with Mr. Plambeck's corrections. Mr. DiFiglia abstained from voting as he was not present at the 4/9/14 meeting.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Tancredi distributed the following recent mail:

- Meeting minutes from the Chatham Township Environmental Commission
- Greater Newark Conservancy newsletter for Spring/Summer 2014
- Revised copy of the Environmental Commission budget
- The Borough Council's Resolution authorizing the Commission's Green Fair in September

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Mr. Bitar had nothing new to report.

Borough Council

The Council passed a resolution authorizing the Commission's Green Fair to be held in Reasoner Park on September 20, 2014.

Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee

Mr. DiFiglia reported that people are looking into the pros and cons of using Shepard Kollock field for dog park activities. Open Space will be holding a meeting tomorrow night. Commissioners suggested the alternative of using property on River Road for a dog park. Mr. Tancredi pointed out that if the Borough sanctions a dog park in the future, it unfortunately may take on the liability of such facilities.

Trail clean-up at the Community Garden

Mr. Plambeck noted that the Community Garden held its grand opening this past Saturday at 2 p.m. Two-thirds of the pathways have been completed. Mr. Plambeck reported that Mark Kellstrom has agreed to construct picnic tables and a kiosk for the Garden. Mr. Tancredi thanked Mr. DiFiglia for spear-heading the removal of the Garden's driveway fencing.

Shepard Kollock Trail Clean-up

Mr. Tancredi noted that the trails were not cleaned up at Shepard Kollock. The trails were flooded. We'll try again the future.

Bat Houses at Kelley's Pond

Mr. Tancredi reported that Griffin Kenny has finished installing the bat houses and kiosk in the Milton Ave. woods. Griffin did a good job with this Eagle Scout project. He also cleared off the perimeter of Kelley's Pond in time for the Fire Department's annual fishing derby.

Mr. Plambeck reported on the latest honors awarded to Eagle Scout Brian Goldstein recently. Brian now has a brick paver on the Walk of Honor. Brian also received special Teddy Roosevelt coins minted this year for conservation.

EV Charging Stations

Council Member Kass was not present to give a status report on this.

ANJEC Grant

Mr. Tancredi noted that the Commission had submitted the paperwork requesting a grant to extend a trail from Bonnell Street to Watchung Ave. Unfortunately, our request was denied.

Green Fair

Mr. Resto reported that he has received a list of vendors from Mrs. Steffens. He also has received information from Mr. Tancredi. Mr. Resto will be sending out e-mails reminding people to save the date September 20th for the Green Fair. He will try and schedule a Green Fair subcommittee meeting in early June. Mr. Bitar and Mr. Tancredi offered to serve on the subcommittee.

Mr. Tancredi suggested maybe it's time for a new logo and a new banner for the Commission, in time for the Green Fair. He noted there is money available in the Commission's budget for the Green Fair.

Commissioners discussed whether or not to charge local businesses for tables at the Green Fair. Some local businesses are eco-friendly.

Sustainable Jersey Certification Action

Mrs. Steffens gave an update on Chatham's Rain Garden. Posters were given out for an upcoming Eco Film: "More Than Honey", which will be held June 5th, 7:30 p.m. at the Chatham Library. She reviewed what other eco films may be available for future viewing.

Mrs. Steffens passed around a press release about Green Challenges that she will be submitting to the news media.

Mrs. Steffens confirmed that the Commission will have a table on Fishawack Day. The Green Challenge forms will then be available for residents to complete and submit. Also, Mrs. Steffens suggested that the Commission have a table set up for a couple of Farmer's Market days. The dates decided upon were June 21st, July 12th and October 4th if it's okay with the Farmer's Market Committee.

Mrs. Steffens distributed the updated jobs list for Sustainable Jersey.

Mrs. Steffens and Mr. Tancredi reviewed the status of anti-idling bumper stickers and signs. Mr. Tancredi has down-loaded 3 anti-idling bumper stickers. He suggested ordering these relatively inexpensive stickers. Mrs. Steffens pointed out that the Borough CFO prefers Borough-approved vendors. Mr. Tancredi said okay, but it will probably cost more. He will contact Mr. Mariniello on this matter.

Mrs. Steffens suggested other ways to remind motorists not to keep their vehicles needlessly idling. Aside from signs being installed, perhaps the school newsletters could run a reminder.

Mr. Plambeck gave a status report on the recycling and composting of materials. Eventually it will be on the web site.

Regarding the Safe Routes to School program, Mr. Tancredi will e-mail Mrs. Dekker about creating the flyer. Mrs. Dekker will be stepping off the Commission; however, she might agree to help the Commission obtain SJ points in this area. Mrs. Steffens hoped Mrs. Dekker could also help out again with the Mayor's Wellness Campaign.

Mrs. Steffens discussed the Community Forestry Plan & Tree Canopy Goal. She described how she will be contacting local landscapers. Mr. DiFiglia will be attending next week's Borough Shade Tree Commission to talk with them about the Tree Canopy Goal which would obtain 20 points. The Shade Tree Commission will also have to re-write their 5-year plan.

Regarding the Creative Team, Mr. Resto reported that the Mission Statement is before the Team members. Mr. Resto is expecting the Team members to approve the Statement. The business leader will be Tony Britt.

Regarding Bulky Rigid Plastics, they are included in the Borough's Recycling contract. Mr. Tancredi noted that residents have been bringing these types of plastics to the Borough Recycling Center. He suggested asking Carol Nauta to put a reminder on where to recycle bulky rigid plastic.

Mrs. Steffens brought up the collection of old/used prescription medications. This has been done by Liberty Drug store in the past. Mr. DiFiglia felt that Chatham's CVS would be very helpful with this type of collection. Mr. Plambeck noted that there just was a drug collection program at CVS run by the Borough Police Department.

On other SJ matters, Mrs. Steffens discussed keeping the Green Team and the Environmental Commission separate entities. There should then be two separate Annual Reports at the end of the year. There was a discussion of whether or not some of the Environmental Commissioners could serve on the Green Team. This "subset" of Commissioners could meet an hour before the regular monthly Environmental Commission meeting. After further discussion, many Commissioners indicated they were tied up with other commitments.

Current Commissioners & Vacancies

Mr. DiFiglia announced that he will be moving to Ocean Township at the end of June; therefore, he will soon be resigning from the Commission. He will write a resignation letter which will include an effective date.

Mr. Tancredi will contact Mrs. Dekker about her membership status. Mrs. Dekker will be asked to put her intentions in writing.

Subcommittees and Responsibilities

Mr. Tancredi noted the two future vacancies coming up on the Commission. Mr. Resto will be chairing this year's Green Fair. Mr. Tancredi will be chairing the Trail Clean-up events. Hopefully new membership can be recruited. An effort will be made to re-establish the Green Team; however, Mr. Tancredi felt a 7 p.m. meeting would not work well.

After further discussion, Mr. Plambeck summed up that Mr. Resto will put in a request for volunteers.

At 10:00 p.m. the meeting adjourned

The next Borough Environmental Commission Meeting will be on Wednesday June 11, 2014, 8 p.m., Room 212, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Holler

Elizabeth Holler
Recording Secretary