

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 8, 2013 8 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	
Kate Murphy	X	
Liz Holler, Rec. Sec.	X	

Pamela Paxton, an interested observer and former Commissioner, was present.

Review/Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of April 11, 2013 were approved as submitted.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Tancredi reviewed the mail received by the Commission:

- An article from Ener g Magazine regarding harvesting water energy
- Meeting minutes from the Chatham Twp. Environmental Comm.
- A letter from the Madison Rotary stating that they had no funds available to the Commission
- A memo from the Borough Administrator to the Shade Tree Commission regarding the Community Stewardship Incentive Program
- A copy of Resolution #13-189 giving permission to the Environmental Commission to hold their Annual Green Fair in Reasoner Park & railroad parking lot.
- An invitation from the Overlook Healthcare Reform seminar at the Hilton Hotel on May 9th
- A copy of the Environmental Commission's annual budget.

Summer Internship

In reference to the Commission's budget, Mr. Plambeck noted that he had spoken with Mayor Harris and Mr. Falzarano to see whether Andrew Holloway and Charles Ross could return to the Borough as interns this summer.

Liaison Reports
Planning Board

Mr. Bitar was not present to give the report.

Borough Council

Mr. Plambeck reported that the Borough Council has approved the photo contest. Also, the Council will be appointing a new Council Member soon to replace Len Resto.

Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee

Mr. Plambeck said the Committee met on March 25th.

Community Gardens

Mr. Plambeck reported that the committee had looked at possible new sites for the gardens at Woodland Park and the area beyond the Borough Recycling Center. This particular area is owned by NJ Transit. This particular section would not be viable.

Green Initiatives

Mrs. Steffens reported that 10 or 15 plants from Sprout House will be arriving for the Borough Rain Garden. Volunteer planters are needed.

Also, Mrs. Steffens passed around a thank you note from Sustainable Jersey for her attendance at the Northern NJ Sustainable Resources & Networking Forum on April 16th.

Mrs. Steffens reported that Madison's Green Fair is tomorrow.

Mrs. Steffens suggested the Commission purchase their own tables for display events. She had looked at what is available at Staples. Mr. Tancredi reviewed the prices with her. He agreed to have Mrs. Steffens to go ahead and order one from Staples. A purchase order can be done with the Borough finance office.

Sustainable Jersey Recertification

Mrs. Steffens distributed her outline "2015 SJ Recertification Summary of Actions" and explained the local programs and projects that the Borough could undertake to earn needed points for recertification.

Mrs. Steffens reviewed in detail what actions the Borough would have to undertake this month and next month. The Commission discussed with her the number of signatures that will be needed for the Green Challenge this year. The signature process should be kept simple.

After further discussion, Mr. Tancredi suggested a sub-committee be formed to work on the Green Challenge project. Ms. Murphy offered to review the Green Challenges and possibly do some redesigning. Mrs. Steffens asked for any suggestions Commissioners may have to award incentives to those residents who participate in the Green Challenges.

Eco Films

Mrs. Steffens said the film schedule should be lined up for 2014. Perhaps new eco films could be purchased. Films regarding water conservation and energy education would contribute points toward the Borough's SJ Recertification. Mr. Tancredi suggested The Magic School Bus series at the Chatham Library would be helpful. Ms. Murphy

recommended the Matt Damon film on fracking, which would be excellent for teens and adults.

On other matters, Mrs. Steffens brought up the possibility of issuing an Eco-film newsletter twice a year. Also, perhaps a brochure could be done on the Borough's rain garden.

Commissioners will review Mrs. Steffens' "SJ Recertification Summary of Actions" at home.

Green Fair 2013 Committee

Mr. Bitar was not present to give a report.

Eagle Project at Milton Woods – Brian Goldstein (in the planning stage)

Brian will be meeting with Mr. DeNave, the Borough Engineer, this week.

Shepard Kollock (Trail Head) – Landon Paulson

Landon hasn't touched base recently with Mr. Tancredi.

Trail Clean-up

Mr. Tancredi reported that the entire Spring Clean-up in the Borough was a great success. The Scouts were a tremendous help with the Stanley Park clean up. A great deal of work was accomplished at Stanley Park. Mr. Plambeck reported that, after much hard work by volunteers, the ground at Shepard Kollock has now been made level. Seeding was also done where the tree stump was removed.

Photo Contest – October 26, 2013

Mr. Plambeck noted that the contest is progressing well. Flyers advertising the contest have been posted in local stores. Mr. Plambeck has met with Frames on Main about the framing of the winning photos.

Jaycees Grant Request (\$500)

Mr. Tancredi noted that the Commission has sent a letter asking for \$500 to continue projects begun last year.

Fishawack Day – June 8

Mr. Tancredi noted the Commission will set up a table. Commissioners discussed what time slots they would be available to staff the table. 9:00 a.m. to 10 a.m. will be set up time. The table will be staffed by Commissioners until 4 p.m.

Before adjourning, Pamela Paxton gave Commissioners her observations of Stanley Park during her recent visit at the Park. She showed photos she had taken about serious erosion she found in the Park. Vehicles have been parking on the roots of one of the major Stanley trees near the parking lot. Ms. Paxton found most of the trees along river bank are dead or dying. The picnic tables are not in good condition.

Ms. Murphy felt that the Environmental Club at Chatham High could donate a new picnic table. Ms. Paxton suggested perhaps memorial donations could be given by residents for new picnic tables.

Commissioners talked about how to deal with the tree situation. Perhaps the Shade Tree Commission could recommend what types would best thrive and survive at this location.

Chairman Tancredi noted that this Stanley Park matter will remain on the Commission's future agendas. Mr. Plambeck said he would bring this situation to the attention of the Kiwanis Club.

At 9:45 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, 8 p.m., Room 212, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Holler

Elizabeth Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris