

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 11, 2014

8:00 p.m.

Chairman John Tancredi called this meeting to order at 8:10 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	

New Projects

Stanley Park – Michael Twentyman

Michael presented his plans to the Commission and asked the Commission to be the beneficiary of the project.

Michael distributed his hand-out: “Potential Stanley Park Eagle Scout Project”. He is proposing to construct two new benches at Stanley Park on River Road. He will also be restoring an existing bench. He will try and restore an existing barbecue grill in the park. He will also potentially install a new grill. Michael also hopes to clean up the riverbank of weeds and debris. His uncles, in the construction business, will help him obtain the necessary building materials.

Mr. Tancredi reminded Michael that if the Environmental Commission approves the project that he would have to request a resolution asking from the Mayor and Council’s approval. Mr. Tancredi encouraged Michael to work on his official Eagle Scout write-up of the project for the Commission to sign-off on before approaching the Borough Council. Mr. Resto offered to proof-read the write-up.

Mr. Plambeck made a motion that the Environmental Commission support Michael Twentyman’s Eagle Scout project. Mr. Resto seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Review/Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of May 14, 2014 were approved as amended.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

There was nothing to report at this time.

Borough Council

Council Member Kass reported the Borough Recycling Center may be moving to the Borough Mulch area behind Milton Ave. School. Commissioners discussed the logistics of this new arrangement.

Council Member Kass gave an update on the electric car charging station situation. It appears that the Budget Committee does not want to spend additional money on charging stations. It was decided that the grant money should be returned because no firm proposal could be made.

Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee

Mr. DiFiglia was not present to give a report.

Community Garden

Mr. Plambeck reported that all but two plots have been planted. Some beautification projects are going on. A sign is being planned for the entrance. Mr. Plambeck explained the tree trimming that will eventually provide all plots much needed sunshine.

Mr. Tancredi noted that Mark Kellstrom has proposed constructing picnic tables and a kiosk at the Community Garden as his Eagle Scout project. Mark still has to complete the official write-up for this project. If Mark doesn't meet the required deadlines, perhaps his construction work can become another scout's Eagle Project in the future. Or, the proposed plans can become a troop service project.

Green Fair

Mr. Resto reported that he and Mr. Bitar recently held a productive meeting. The Borough will be paying for the shredding truck. Eric Klepper has come up with a new logo for the Green Fair. Lawn signs with the new logo will be created. Notices will be sent out to all the vendors who have participated in the past. Carl Cappabianca and Helen Ann Rosenfeld will serve on the Green Team sub-committee. At Mr. Tancredi's suggestion, Mr. Resto will contact the MUA person who collects used bicycles for recycling.

Sustainable Jersey Certification Items

Mr. Tancredi reported that Cindy Steffens will be resigning from the Environmental Commission effective August 1st. Mrs. Steffens will also be stepping down as the point person for SJ Certification. She indicated she will work on the SJ items before she officially leaves. Mrs. Steffens believed that enough SJ points will be obtained before her resignation is in effect to qualify the Borough for Sustainable Jersey's Bronze Certification.

Bee Hive Construction

The Chatham Community Bee Club has set up their bee hives in a vacant lot on St. James Street. With Albert Tomaro as his Eagle Scout coach, Boy Scout Steve Kamionek will enhance and add on to this bee complex. There is still some question as to who will be the official beneficiary of this Eagle Scout project.

Current Commissioner Vacancies

Mr. Tancredi noted that Mr. DiFiglia has sent his official resignation. Mr. Tancredi has e-mailed Mrs. Dekker to see if she wanted to remain on the Commission. If not, she must send a letter of resignation. Mrs. Steffens will be resigning effective August 1, 2014.

Sub Committees and Responsibilities

Mr. Plambeck reported that Billy Conlan has agreed to help with the Environmental Commission this summer. What he will work on is still being discussed. Mrs. Murphy has offered to help with the photo contest. Mr. Cappabianca has kindly offered to serve as the custodian of the community's rain garden. He noted that weeding and maintenance work will be needed during the summer months.

Mr. Tancredi noted that there are now 3 openings on the Environmental Commission. If anyone knows of any residents interested in joining the Commission, ask them to fill out an application. Volunteer applications are available at the Office of the Borough Clerk. Mr. Resto indicated his appeal for volunteers had been in the Chatham Courier; but, to date, there had been no response.

Mr. Tancredi stated that the topic of Sub Committees and Responsibilities could be re-visited after more residents join the Commission.

Fishawack Day – June 14, 2014

Mr. Tancredi reviewed the hours of the Festival. He will be providing the chairs, tables, and tent from his garage. He passed around a sign-up sheet for Commissioners to pick out a time slot to staff the table. Mrs. Steffens has kindly offered to help.

Richard D. Ligertwood nomination

Mr. Tancredi explained the William T. Hornaday Award, the Gold Badge, that he would like to see awarded to former Commissioner Dick Ligertwood. Mr. Tancredi has filled out the necessary application and drafted a Resolution from the Environmental Commission supporting this nomination.

Mr. Plambeck read aloud Environmental Commission Resolution #14-01 supporting the nomination of Richard D. Ligertwood for the William T. Hornaday Gold Badge (see attached copy to Minutes). Mr. Plambeck made some minor corrections.

Mr. Resto made a motion to approve this Resolution as amended. Mr. Plambeck seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye.

At 9:20 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Holler

Elizabeth Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris