CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 12, 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 – arrived 9:30 p.m.	
Dick Plambeck	X	
Ruth Dekker		X
Joan Thuebel	X	
Ed DiFiglia	X	
Carl Cappabianca	X	
Kate Murphy	X	
Liz Holler, Rec. Secretary	X	

Review/Approval of Minutes
The meeting minutes of May 8, 2013, second draft, were approved as submitted. Mr. Bitar abstained from voting. He was absent from this meeting.

Eagle Project at Milton Woods – Brian Goldstein
Mr. Tancredi noted that Brian would like to put a deer exclosure in the woods behind Milton Ave. School. Brian is present tonight to give a status report.

Brian explained that the deer exclosures he is planning to create will be near Kelley's pond He showed the Commissioners a diagram of his proposed exclosures which still need approval from the Borough Engineer and the Borough Council. The two deer exclosures will have benches and an information kiosk. Teachers can take their students to the exclosures for nature and environmental classes.

Brian is hoping the native species will eventually return to one of the exclosures. He has researched the prices of different levels of deer exclosures. An 8 ft. fence is necessary to keep the deer out. The invasive species will be uprooted and disposed of. The area will then be mulched.

Brian will be meeting with the principal of Milton Ave. School tomorrow. He will also be meeting with the PTO. He is looking at different type fences and the prices involved. Poly-coated fences seem to be the most durable.

Brian reviewed the costs involved with the entire project. Mr. Tancredi confirmed with Brian that the total cost of the project would be $2600, give or take. Brian plans to do the exclosure work this summer.

Commissioners discussed what funds may be available for Brian's project.

Mr. Tancredi made a motion that the Commission donate up to $500, if the funding is available, towards Brian's Eagle Scout project. Mr. Plambeck seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted "aye".

Brian thanked the Commission for their time and support.

Shepard Kollock (Trail Head)
Mr. Tancredi reported that Landon Paulsen informed him that he did the Trail Head a week ago.

Correspondence/Articles
Mr. Tancredi distributed the meeting minutes from the Long Hill Township Environmental Commission.

Commissioners asked Ms. Holler to no longer mail out meeting minutes to neighboring towns. Posting approved minutes on the Borough's web site should be sufficient.

Ms. Tancredi asked Commissioners to review the Membership List that had been distributed tonight. Two corrections on e-mails were needed. Ms. Holler will give the corrections to the Borough Clerk.

Kate Murphy – She's Official
Congratulations to Kate Murphy on being appointed to the Commission, as First Alternate.

Liaison Reports
Planning Board
Mr. Bitar gave an update on the Planning Board's review of the Borough's Industrial Districts. The public will soon be invited to give their views to the Board on this matter. The Board will be hearing plans for a subdivision proposed for 51 Summit Ave. at their next meeting (June 19th). At Mr. Plambeck's request, Mr. Bitar gave an update on what's happening to the former Parrott Mill Inn property.

Borough Council
Mr. Plambeck reported that former Council Member Len Resto may be returning to Chatham Borough. Mr. Resto may be interested in re-joining the Borough Council.

Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee
Mr. DiFiglia said another meeting will be held next month. Specific items need to be addressed.

Community Garden

Mr. Plambeck discussed the possibility of the new Garden being established at Woodland Park. If this comes to fruition, Mr. Plambeck believed Chatham Township had an obligation to keep the site safe. Hopefully some local contractors will help to clear the present site.

Pending Business

SJ Recertification – Resolution

Mr. Tancredi noted that a resolution is needed to re-affirm that the Green Initiatives Committee was the Green Team. The Borough Council needs to adopt a resolution stating that the Green Team is now a component of the Borough Environmental Commission. Mr. Tancredi noted that Mrs. Steffens had indicated she would like a resolution stating that the Environmental Commission is taking on the responsibilities of the former Green Team.

Mr. DiFiglia made a motion to re-affirm that the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission has taken on the Green Initiatives Committee and will take on the responsibilities of the Green Team as per the Sustainable Jersey requirements and will continue the mission thereof. Mr. Plambeck seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted "aye".

Green Fair

Mr. Bitar reported that packets have been sent out to vendors. A Green Fair Committee meeting was recently held. Committee members discussed expanding the entertainment portion of the Fair. Mr. DiFiglia offered to look into an interesting clean water presentation he had seen done by the U.S. Coast Guard. Dick Plambeck will see if Turtle Back Zoo had an outreach program. Mr. Bitar said the music part of the Fair will be further explored. Mr. Tancredi noted that bike safety had also been discussed by the Fair Committee.

The Explore Chatham Photo Contest

Mr. Plambeck noted all the locations where he had put up posters inviting residents to participate. The judging panel is now complete. He hopes to the winning photos will be put on the Borough web site. He was also hoping the winners would be willing to share their photos in the vegetation and wildlife chapters that Mr. Plambeck will be re-writing for the ERI.

On other matters, Mr. Plambeck reported that Borough interns Andrew Holloway and Charles Ross are currently working on the Borough tree inventory. Mayor Harris has asked them to undertake background work for a joint Summit-Chatham trail. This project may be eligible for a grant.

Jaycees Grant Request ($500.)

Mrs. Steffens is picking the check up tonight at the Jaycee dinner.

New Business/Discussion

Stanley Park Embankment

Mr. Tancredi would like to set up a site visit to this location. He noted that Pamela Paxton, a former Commissioner, had attended the last meeting to report on erosion conditions along the Passaic River in the Stanley Section. Some of the Stanley Park trees may eventually fall into the river due to this erosion. Mr. Plambeck reported that he has recently done a site visit in this area with Mr. DeNave, the Borough Engineer, and Bob Venezia, the DPW Director. Mr. Plambeck showed the men the serious erosion occurring just before Stanley's railroad bridge. Mr. DeNave wants rocks deposited in that section as soon as possible. Mr. DeNave is also observing the flow coming down from Lackawanna Court. New drains are needed.

Mr. DeNave informed Mr. Plambeck that he has a landscape architect willing to help the town. Mr. Plambeck suggested an inventory be taken on what is growing in Stanley Park. Perhaps a game plan could be formed to make certain improvements. Mr. Plambeck volunteered to walk the Park with any interested Commissioners.

At 9:25 p.m. Mrs. Steffens arrived at the meeting.

Update website – Include GIC

Mr. Tancredi noted that the contents of the Commission's website are desperately in need of updating. Basic information on the Commission is missing or is out-of-date. Information should be included on the Green Fair and the Green Team. Mr. Tancredi asked for a volunteer(s) to help with this update. Mrs. Steffens will send an e-mail Janice Piccolo in the Borough Adminstrator's office on this matter. Mrs. Piccolo may know how to make the needed updates.

On other matters, Mr. Plambeck reported that the Borough Shade Tree Commission is offering free trees to be planted in residents' front yards.

Mrs. Steffens discussed the recent Sustainable Jersey project grants.

At 9:30 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 10, 2013, 8 p.m., Room 212, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Holler

Elizabeth Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris