

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
July 9, 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
Carl Cappabianca		X
Kate Murphy	X	
Len Resto	X	
Council Member Alida Kass		X

Three visitors were also present at the meeting: Boy Scout Tristan Thomas, his father Al Thomas, and his Eagle Coach Glen Corbitt.

Review/Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of June 11, 2014 were approved as amended.

New Business/Discussion

Tristan Thomas presentation – Bird Blinds Wuhala Woods

Tristan distributed his packet explaining his proposed Eagle Scout project. He would like to construct a bird blind in Wuhala Woods. Using an aerial map, Tristan pointed out the proposed location of his blind. It would provide a good view of the river and the woods. Tristan explained the direction the blind will take. The project will cost somewhere between \$600 and \$700.

Tristan explained how to reach the site, going down Rutgers Street and following the trail markings from a previous Eagle project. Tristan will be using cedar wood for his blind. He believed the blind will be constructed high enough to not get flooded by the river. In case of a possible wash through from the river, Mr. Tancredi suggested Tristan elevate the fence on posts above ground. Tristan discussed the wildlife sign/photos he will display on his blind.

Mr. Resto made a motion that the Environmental Commission act as beneficiary for Tristan Thomas's Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Plambeck seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Mr. Tancredi reminded Tristan that he still needs to obtain approval for his project from the Borough Council. He should also discuss this project with the Borough Engineer, Vince DeNave.

Green Fair

Mr. Resto reported that the paper shredder truck that has been at previous Fairs is now charging much higher rates. On that same note, Mr. Tancredi pointed out that Pedals for Progress wants \$10 for each donated bike. Perhaps the Commission should look for another vendor who would take the donations for free. Mr. Resto reported that Vinnie Voltage and Rizzo's Reptiles will be participating in the Fair. Also, he asked the Community Players to do a presentation.

Mr. Tancredi reported that Troop 8 has designated the Green Fair as their official "September Activity". The Scouts will have several venues at the Fair. The Fair will also be an advancement opportunity for the Scouts. The Scouts will make themselves available for service hours at the Fair. Mr. Tancredi reported that he has been working on establishing a mini merit badge workshop at the Fair, where Scouts could come in and work on their merit badges for the environment and sustainability.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Tancredi noted the following correspondence sent to the Commission:

- An updated proposed Commission budget
 - Meeting minutes from other municipalities
 - A packet from Shop Rite reporting on their Sustainability program. A sample "green" key chain, a newsletter, and their environmental fact sheet was included.
- Mr. Tancredi and Mr. Resto felt that Shop Rite would be a good vendor for the Green Fair. Mr. Resto will approach them with an invitation.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Mr. Bitar was not present to report on the Planning Board activities.

Borough Council

Council Member Kass was not present to give a report.

Open Space & Historic Preservation Trust Advisory

Mr. Tancredi noted that Ed DiFiglia has resigned. The mayor will have to appoint a new Chairman for this group.

Mr. Plambeck reviewed the Morris County Preservation Trust Fund's new Analysis & Strategy Report discussed at a recent county freeholder meeting.

Community Garden

Mr. Plambeck reported that Peter Nitzsche from the Morris County Extension Service walked through the Chatham Community Garden and identified fungus, pests, and other problems affecting the plantings. Mr. Plambeck also reported that most of the plots have been spoken for.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Plambeck distributed and summarized the most recent MCMUA Recycling Rates. Chatham Borough is still in the lead for the highest per capita recycling for Morris County communities.

On other matters, Mr. Plambeck reported that PSE & G have marked with tape two bushes they will remove from the Bob Thompson berm. These bushes are in poor condition. PSE & G has recommendations for new lower ground plantings.

Mr. Plambeck reported on the great blue heron he has photographed on the dam at Stanley Park.

Farmer's Market

Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Plambeck will staff the Commission's table this Saturday morning. Mr. Tancredi will bring the tent, table, and chairs down to the market for setup at 8 a.m.

Sustainable Jersey Certification

Mr. Tancredi advised Commissioners to keep working on their assignments.

Mr. Resto noted that he will be holding a Green Fair subcommittee meeting soon.

On other matters, Mr. Tancredi reported that Boy Scout Michael Twentyman is working on the write-up for his Eagle Scout project at Stanley Park. Boy Scout Mark Kellstrom has had his proposed Eagle Scout project signed off to go to his district adviser. Boy Scout Steve Kamionek is moving ahead with his write-up and design to create three garden beds at the community bee hive site on River Road. The plantings in the garden bed will encourage pollination.

At 9:15 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on September 10, 2014, 8 p.m., Room 212, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Holler

Elizabeth Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris