

**CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
November 12, 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	
Dick Plambeck	X	
Ruth Dekker		X
Carl Cappabianca	X	
Kate Murphy	X	
Len Resto	X	
Council Member Alida Kass		X

Ben Lambert, an interested resident and future Commissioner, was also present.

Grant Hauck – Wuhala Woods Trails

Grant Hauck, Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 8, came forward. His Eagle Scout Coach, Tony Britt, was also present. Grant showed the Commission a hard copy report of his Eagle Scout proposal. He reported that the existing trails in Wuhala Woods are currently in disrepair. Grant is proposing to make one single, solid trail with improved bog bridges. He will put in numbered trail markers. The beneficiary of this project would be Chatham Borough residents who enjoy nature walks.

Grant pointed out that his fellow scout, Tristan Thomas, has constructed Bird Blinds in Wuhala Woods. Grant's proposed trail will provide good access to the Bird Blinds. Grant noted that John Tancredi will serve as Beneficiary Representative.

Grant reviewed the phases of the project: finalizing the papers, undertaking fundraising, obtaining the needed materials, recruiting scout volunteers to help with the labor. Much of the initial construction will start in Grant's garage. Grant is proposing to construct 5 anchored bog bridges to help people cross the swamper areas. He described his proposed grounded kiosk, which will be weather-proof and have a roof sheltering it. Grant noted that the DPW has approved his project.

Grant reported that he has a family car to transport finished parts of the project to the woods, plus take any needed material there.

Mr. Resto asked Grant if he had an estimated total cost of the project. Grant answered that \$280 was a low ball figure. He will try and buy the building materials from local businesses, like Dreyer's. Grant answered questions that Commissioners had about the kiosk. Mr. Britt suggested that when Grant's project is completed, it could be included in the "Explore Chatham" program.

Mr. Tancredi asked whether the Borough Council had voted its approval of this project, after hearing Grant giving his presentation. Mr. Britt answered that no official vote had been taken at the Council meeting. Mr. Tancredi noted that Mayor Harris had suggested that the Environmental Commission act as beneficiary regarding Grant's project, since the Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee currently is not active. Mr. Tancredi felt that the Borough Council, at their next meeting, will vote, by a resolution, their approval of Grant's project.

Mr. Plambeck made a motion that the Environmental Commission serve as beneficiary of Grant Hauck's Eagle Scout Project for the Wuhala Woods Trails. Mr. Resto seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Mr. Plambeck advised Grant that there are times when Wuhala Woods experiences flooding, so he should plan his work schedule accordingly. Also, he pointed out that trees fall in the woods, so the more trail markers installed, the better.

Mr. Britt suggested that in the future, after Grant's trail project is completed, Troop 8 could do an annual review of the trail to make sure it is well maintained.

Mr. Tancredi asked Grant to write up a paragraph of all the items that he will undertake for his Wuhala Woods trails project, as explained to the Commission tonight. Mr. Tancredi will then sign off on this document on behalf of the Environmental Commission.

#### Meeting minutes

The meeting minutes of September 10, 2014 were approved as amended.

The meeting minutes of October 8, 2014 were not voted on, since it was not an official meeting.

At a future date, Mr. Tancredi will be swearing in Len Resto for another term as a Commissioner.

#### Mail/Correspondence

Meeting minutes were received from the Chatham Township and Long Hill Township Environmental Commissions.

#### Liaison Reports

##### Planning Board

Mr. Bitar gave an update on the Board's Resolution recommending to Mayor and Council the proposed Ordinance for the M Zone District and creating the Gateway Overlay District. He noted that Dr. Blickstein recently gave a presentation on this ordinance to the Mayor and Council. The ordinance has gone through its first reading. At its latest meeting, the Board reviewed the returned ordinance to make sure it was consistent with the Borough's Master Plan. November 24<sup>th</sup> is the second reading for this ordinance.

### Borough Council

Mr. Resto reported that the Electric Charging Station issue is still alive; however, a new location is needed.

### Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee

There was nothing to report.

### Community Garden

Mr. Plambeck reported that a new shed has been constructed. The Garden is in the process of going to sleep for the winter.

### SJ Certification Action Items

These items will be discussed at the Green Team meeting.

### Pending Business

#### Eagle Scout Projects

Mr. Tancredi reported that Michael Twentyman's Stanley Park Eagle Scout Project is essentially finished. Michael has constructed two working grills and new picnic tables.

Mr. Tancredi also reported that Tristan Thomas's Bird Blinds in Wuhala Woods are essentially done. Tristan recently obtained permission from the Borough Council for this project. Another Scout, Stephen Kamionek has put in six good-sized garden beds and a beautiful kiosk on River Road. Unfortunately, a contractor recently dumped two loads of used asphalt in front of the kiosk. Vince DeNave, the Borough Engineer, is aware of this situation.

### New Business/Discussion

#### Pilgrim Pipeline

Mr. Tancredi reported that there was a huge public attendance at the last Council Meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup> voicing concerns about this proposed pipeline. He had attended most of the presentations given by Chatham residents, Katie DePinto and Dawn Ferguson. Mr. Tancredi noted that Mayor Harris made a formal request that the Environmental Commission do research on this pipeline project. Mr. Resto has volunteered to be the point person for this research.

Mr. Resto gave a brief summary on what information he has so far learned about this proposed installation. In Chatham Borough, Pilgrim, a venture capital company, wants to install their pipes along the PSE & G right-of-way. A small sliver of Borough land is needed for Pilgrim to do their survey, which has upset many residents. The Borough Council voted not to allow Pilgrim to use Borough land for their survey. At the next Borough Council meeting, on November 24<sup>th</sup>, the Council will vote on a resolution in opposition to the pipeline. At Mayor Harris's request, Mr. Resto will create the template for this resolution. Mr. Resto felt that the possible negative affect on the local aquifer should be the chief concern. He will mention this concern in the draft resolution.

### Fall Cleanup

Mr. Plambeck reported that the Kiwanis have cleaned up Shepard Kollock Park. Mr. Tancredi noted that Kelley's Pond needs maintenance work. It's very overgrown.

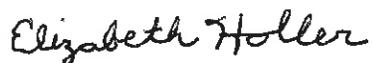
After further discussion, the Commission decided not to do a Fall Cleanup. They will instead focus on doing a serious cleanup day in the spring.

Before adjourning, Mr. Plambeck reported that he has asked Mayor Harris to change his status on the Commission. Mr. Plambeck would like to serve as an Alternate for a one year term. He and Mrs. Plambeck will be relocating out of state next year.

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

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2014, 7:30 p.m., Room 212, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:



Elizabeth Holler  
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris