

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 13, 2013

8 p.m.

In Chairman Tancredi's absence, Commissioner Dick Plambeck called this meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Municipal Building. Mr. Plambeck 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

In Ms. Holler's absence, Commissioner Cappabianca was kind enough to take the meeting minutes for tonight's meeting.

Review/Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of October 9, 2013 were approved as amended.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Plambeck distributed the following pieces of correspondence:

- An invitation from the Bernardsville Environmental Commission
- Long Hill Township Environmental Commission minutes
- Passaic River: More Than Just a River event

Liaison Reports

Mr. Plambeck reported that the Planning Bd. is meeting tonight, Nov. 13th, the same night as the Environmental Commission's meeting. On the Planning Bd.'s agenda, a discussion will be held again on the M District. Both the Environmental Commission and the Planning Bd. have discussed the future closing of the Merck facilities in Summit NJ. This closing will impact Summit and surrounding towns.

Borough Council

A liaison to the Environmental Commission has not yet been appointed. Mr. Plambeck noted that funds to remove some trees from the Passaic River was passed by the Borough Council. Chatham Township will discuss this matter at the Committee Meeting on November 14th.

Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee

Mr. DiFiglia was not able to attend tonight's meeting; however, he will have highlights to share from the October 10th report at the December Environmental Commission meeting. Mr. Plambeck briefly noted that the paying down of several properties is in process with no tax rate increase anticipated.

Community Garden

Mr. Plambeck reported that a committee has been formed and new rules are being developed. Plot sizes including full, half and quarter have been determined. Sign-ups for the plots are next. The Woodland Park site has been prepared with a combination of top soil/mulch and oats have been planted.

Pending Business

Brian Goldstein – Deer Exclosure in Milton Avenue Woods

With the exclosures now complete, Mr. Plambeck reported that Brian has submitted all Eagle Scout information requirements. Several Commissioners have visited the exclosures site and noted that the project is well done.

Green Initiatives

Eco Film Series

Mrs. Steffens reported the November 7th : Forks Over Knives" film was well-attended, since it was the most desired by those on the e-mail list. The next film is "Blue Gold" on December 5. Mrs. Murphy volunteered to order and preview the film from Netflix, lead the post-film discussion and assist Mrs. Steffens with refreshments. Mr. Plambeck offered to provide several water conservation handouts and will contribute input during the post-film discussion. Mrs. Steffens noted that relevant dates including the Eco Film Series, have been added to the Borough calendar.

Sustainable Jersey – Silver Certification

Mrs. Steffens provided statistics and examples of cities that have been recertified and those that have achieved bronze or silver levels. Chatham Borough is one of 20 cities that have achieved silver status along with Wykoff, Camden, Maplewood, Madison and several others.

Mrs. Steffens distributed a summary entitled "Sustainable Jersey Recertification Plan as of November 12, 2013". Of the many ongoing, November in-process and potential activities listed, the following SJ assignments were discussed in varying levels of detail:

Website: This was an open activity from the October 9th Commission meeting. Mr. Cappabianca volunteered to handle adding information to the website along with ongoing maintenance.

Bulky Rigid Plastics Recycling: The recycling contract goes out to bid this year. It's up to the Borough to determine if this type of recycling will be added. If yes, the additional SJ points can be earned.

Green Team: Commissioners discussed the SJ requirement for an annual report or summary of Green Team activities. This will be revisited during the December meeting.

Anti-Idling: Mr. Tancredi is leading this activity. A letter to idling-frequent businesses is the next anticipated step by January 1st.

Direct Install Campaign to Local Businesses: Mr. Plambeck suggested Tony Britt would be an excellent contact to help with this activity given his involvement with downtown businesses.

Mayor's Wellness Campaign – Employees: Commissioners discussed some difficulties identifying appropriate topics with the potential to repeat healthy walking. This will also be revisited during the December meeting.

Companion Animal Action Pledge: Commissioners discussed this straight-forward resolution for the Council to pass. Mrs. Steffens is leading the development of the resolution.

Other Potential Activities: The above covered the November in-process actions. Several others listed on the summary distributed by Mrs. Steffens will be discussed at subsequent meetings in pursuit of further SJ points.

New Business/Discussion

None

Miscellaneous

Seasonal Activities, Spring Clean Up Day

Mr. Plambeck reported that lights have already been added to the downtown trees in preparation for White Lights shopping. The holiday tree lighting will take place on December 5. The key spring clean-up project on May 3, 2014 will be at Rotary Park.

Photography Contest

The judges' meeting took place November 13, as reported by Mr. Plambeck. There are 50 photographs total to be judged and prizes have already been arranged. All photos will be displayed from 1-3 p.m. on December 7th along with prizes presented to the winners.

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

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 8 p.m., Room 212, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Carl Cappabianca

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Carl Cappabianca, Commissioner

