

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
December 11, 2013

8 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	
Dick Plambeck	X	
Ruth Dekker		X
Joan Thuebel	X	
Ed DiFiglia	X	
Carl Cappabianca	X	
Kate Murphy		X
Liz Holler, Rec. Sec.	X	

Review/Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of November 13, 2013 were approved. Mr. Tancredi and Mr. DiFiglia abstained from voting on these minutes because they were absent from that meeting.

Griffin Kenny – Eagle Scout Project – Bat Houses

Mr. Tancredi introduced Griffin Kenny, a Life Scout from Troop 8, who is looking to take on a Leadership Service Project. He is hoping that the Environmental Commission will be the beneficiary of this project. His project is currently in the preliminary stages. Mr. Tancredi had advised Griffin that now would be a good time to meet with the Commission and discuss this project.

Griffin distributed copies of his preliminary outline of the project. He is proposing to construct 4 to 6 bat houses in the vicinity of Kelley's Pond. A kiosk will also be constructed. Griffin would also like to restore the path that goes around the pond. Griffin felt the bat houses should be stationed more in the sunshine. The warmth from the sun would attract more bats. There would be room for 800-1200 bats.

Griffin noted there had been earlier bat houses in the trees near Kelley's pond. The bat houses that he is proposing, will be put on metal poles, hanging 10 to 15 feet off the ground. The poles will be cemented into the ground. His kiosk will explain the purpose of the bat houses. Griffin gave more details on how he would clear the path around the pond.

Mr. Plambeck noted that the previous bat houses close to Kelley's pond and the bat houses at Day's Brook had been vandalized. The bat houses installed at the Madison-Chatham Sewage Treatment Plant have survived. He suggested to Griffin to contact Chris Manak at the Sewage Plant, Mr. Manak would be glad to show him how these particular bat houses function.

Mr. Tancredi suggested to Griffin use galvanized poles, instead of metal poles. He also suggested using a weed-wacker to widen the path on the backside of Kelley's pond. Pea gravel, instead of mulch, may last longer around the pond. Mr. Tancredi recommended Griffin contact Bob Venezia at the DPW about the cleaning of the pond. Mr. Venezia could give advice. DPW material and trucks could also be helpful with this project.

Mr. Plambeck told Griffin about the Hornaday Award.

Commissioners gave Griffin their official endorsement for this project.

Mr. Tancredi advised Griffin to proceed with the write-up of his project and run it by his Eagle coach. If the Eagle Coach approves of the write-up, Griffin should contact Mr. Tancredi for the Commission's signature.

Mr. Plambeck reminded Griffin to touch base with Bob Venezia about this proposed project. Also, Griffin could meet with Mr. Manak at the sewage treatment plant. Possibly more bat houses could be added in that section.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Tancredi distributed the following mail:

1. ANJEC membership renewal form for 2014
2. Info an ANJEC tree replacement program

Mr. Tancredi noted that Ms. Thuebel will not be renewing her Commission membership for 2014.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

In Mr. Bitar's absence, Ms. Holler reported on a recent application before the Planning Bd.

Borough Council

Mr. Tancredi noted that a new Commissioner will be appointed for the new year. The Commission still needs a Council Liaison. Mr. Plambeck reported that additional parking in Memorial Park was hotly discussed at the last Council meeting.

Open Space and Historic Trust Advisory Committee

Mr. DiFiglia reported on the latest meeting. The creation of a future dog park was not resolved. The Committee had also discussed the establishment of bee hives on River Road.

Community Garden

Mr. Plambeck reported that both Chatham Borough and Chatham Township have both signed resolutions approving the new Garden. Applications are now being submitted by interested residents to Janice Piccolo.

Pending Business

Fall Clean – up

Mr. Tancredi noted that this particular clean-up didn't happen for various reasons. The Commission will plan for a clean-up day in the Spring.

Mr. Tancredi reported that a Scout, Steven Kamionek, from Troop 8 is looking for an Eagle Scout Project to undertake. Mr. Tancredi reported he had listened to Steven's concept plan about cleaning the trails at Shepard Kollock. Mr. Tancredi discussed QR codes with Steven. He also informed Steven that Mayor Harris has a list of Eagle Scout projects. After the meeting, Mr. Tancredi thought a good project would be an aggressive attack on the invasive species in Shepard Kollock woods. Also at Shepard Kollock, Mr. Plambeck suggested, with the right permits obtained, a canoe tank-out could be constructed *above* the Passaic River dam.

Mr. Tancredi will e-mail Steven with the two about suggestions for projects at Shepard Kollock.

GIC

Mrs. Steffens reported that the Blue Gold film went well. She thanked Mr. Plambeck for moderating the audience discussion. Another film will be shown on January 2nd, entitled "PlanEAT". Eric Klepper is working on the flyer for this film.

SJ Certification

Mrs. Steffens distributed the SJ Recertification Plan. For Green Challenges, she noted she still has to obtain two rain barrels. Mrs. Steffens and Commissioners discussed the no-idling signs which could be purchased and given to businesses/organizations which have idle-frequent locations. Mr. Tancredi reviewed which banks already had no-idling signs in place. The deli/post office area already has some of these signs.

Regarding the direct install campaign for local businesses, Mrs. Steffens has sent information to Tony Britt. Mr. Britt is very involved with other town projects, and Mrs. Steffens will e-mail him again.

Mrs. Steffens noted that something still has to be decided for the Mayor's Wellness campaign for Borough employees. Mr. DiFiglia gave her information on a county coalition for on-site wellness plan affiliated with Rutgers University. He will get further details for Mrs. Steffens.

Mr. DiFiglia reported that he had made a presentation to the Borough Shade Tree Commission, regarding a possible tree canopy goal. The Shade Tree Commission had expressed concerns to Mr. DiFiglia about this tree canopy survey. Mr. DiFiglia had assured the Shade Tree Commission that there was no deadline to reach the tree canopy goal. The Shade Tree Commission will have an attorney look the paperwork involved. Mr. DiFiglia felt the Shade Tree Commission will approve the tree canopy goal probably in January.

Mrs. Steffens reported that the tree maintenance is coming along fine. Andrew, the Borough intern, had been working on the Borough tree survey. The tree hazard inventory is on hold until the weather warms up. Work had been done up to Zone 6.

Mr. Tancredi asked who was awarded the contract for the Borough recycling. Mayor Plambeck answered the Morris County MUA. Mr. Plambeck distributed the recycling rates for each Morris County municipality.

On other matters, Mr. Tancredi brought up former Commissioner Dick Ligertwood who stepped down from the Commission last year, and has resigned from many other organizations. Mr. Ligertwood had been very active with the Boy Scouts. Mr. Tancredi suggested the Environmental Commission nominate Mr. Ligertwood for the Hornaday Award for adults. Mr. Tancredi reported that Troop 8 has started a scholarship in Dick Ligertwood's name. The scholarship will send a scout to the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). Mr. Tancredi suggested a testimonial dinner, through the Boy Scouts, be held for Mr. Ligertwood in March or April. Members of the public will also be invited. Proceeds could go to the NYLT scholarship fund. Hopefully the Commission will be able to present Mr. Ligertwood with the Hornaday Award at this dinner.

Ms. Holler will look through the Environmental Commission's minutes to see how many years Mr. Ligertwood had served on the Commission.

Before adjourning, Mr. Plambeck reported that awards had been given out for the Explore Chatham Photo Contest. Gift certificates from local stores were given to the winners.

At 9:45 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Elizabeth Holler
Recording Secretary