

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 12, 2016 8:00 p.m.

Chairwoman Kate Murphy called this meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:03 p.m. in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Municipal Building. Mrs. Murphy announced that all legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Kate Murphy (Chrwmn.)	X	
John Tancredi		X
Ben Lampert		X
Brendan Keating	X – arrived 8:33 p.m.	
Carl Cappabianca	X	
Kevin Murphy		X
John Dey	X	
Wolfgang Robinson		X
Council Member Resto	X	

Steve Cheng, an interested resident, was also present. His wife, Julia Cheng, arrived later in the meeting.

At this point in the meeting, there was no quorum.

Public Comment

There was none.

The meeting minutes of September 14, 2016 could not be approved at this point because a quorum was not present.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Ms. Holler noted that the Planning Board meeting of October 5th had been cancelled. However, the Board will be holding their meeting scheduled for October 19th.

Borough Council

Council Member Resto reported that the grant that had been applied for to construct a trail along the Passaic River has been returned by the County Park Commission. The Park Commission had some questions. The Borough has answered their questions and resubmitted the grant. Council Member Resto was confident that the Borough will be awarded the grant.

On other matters, the Chatham-Madison Joint Meeting, the Plant Manager Chris Manak is reviewing an update to a 2008 capacity study. This study shows how much sewage can be processed and then discharged into the Passaic River as clean water. The DEP has a cap in place as to how much sewage can be processed and put in the river. Both Madison and Chatham are planning future housing, which will, of course, influence, the sewage that can be processed.

Council Member Resto reported that the much needed dredging of Kelley's Pond will be done in 2017. The Chatham Firemens Association donated money towards the dredging project. The DPW has installed new grills for the pond area. A new picnic bench and table have been installed courtesy of the Boy Scouts.

Community Gardens

Council Member Resto reported that a Fall Clean-up was held at the Gardens on September 24th. A new door for the garden shed has been installed. The Borough will be putting down gravel for the driveway. Council Member Resto noted that it has been a successful season for the Community Gardens. A great deal of the produce was donated to the Community Foodbank.

Boy Scouts

Council Member Resto reported that Scout Stephen Piccari has installed his birdhouses at Kelley's Pond as his Eagle Scout Project. A kiosk was also installed explaining the different birds that frequent the pond area.

Rain Garden

Mr. Cappabianca reported that he recently had done some weeding at the garden. He has received a quote for new shrubs to be planted by the wall of the municipal pool. He will stay within the \$200 budget designated. Mr. Cappabianca hopes to someday review the original plantings with Greenpath to confirm which plantings are acceptable and which are genuine weeds.

Pilgrim Pipeline

Council Member Resto reported that the Municipal Pipeline Group now officially exists. The needed 15 towns have come together to pass their resolutions and obtain budget money needed for legal representation. Council Member Resto explained the Pilgrim Pipeline situation to Mr. Cheng, tonight's visitor. He encouraged Mr. Cheng to consider joining the Pilgrim Pipeline Advisory Committee.

At 8:33 p.m. Mr. Keating arrived at the Commission meeting. A legal quorum was now present.

Environmental Badge Award

Mr. Keating submitted a nomination to Chrwmn. Murphy. He reviewed the reasons why this local business should receive the award.

Chrwmn. Murphy will notify this business to inform them that they have been nominated for this award. A plaque can be ordered. The plaque can be awarded at an informal luncheon given by the Commission.

Resolution #16-12

The Commission approved the September 14, 2016 meeting minutes.

Referring to one of the topics discussed at the Sept. 14th meeting, Mr. Keating reported that he had spoken with Dot Stillenger of Chatham Twp. Environmental Commission regarding the plastic bag project. Ms. Stillinger felt it would be a good idea, since both Borough and Township residents share the Community Gardens, they could work together on the bench project, an idea Council Member Resto had as a way to honor the memory of “Farmer Paul” who had passed away two months ago. 500 pounds of plastic bags are needed to obtain a bench. Council Member Resto will e-mail Mr. Lampert to confirm this needed amount and the means by which it can be secured.

Commission Website

Chrwmn. Murphy reported that she has posted a few items on the Commission’s Facebook. She passed around her cell phone for Commissioners to see the latest items.

Eco Challenge

Chrwmn. Murphy noted that there were a few participants taking on the Eco Challenge at the Commission’s table at the Farmer’s Market.

Farmers Market Booth – October 15th

Council Member Resto will be help staff the Commission table. Chrwmn. Murphy will be there also. Mr. Keating will also try and help.

Township Drinking Water Event – October 20

Chrwmn. Murphy reported that Peter Gallagher, a member of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission, is sending invitations to people to attend this water drinking event at Charlie Brown’s, October 20th, 7 p.m. Council Member Resto is unable to attend due to the Great Swamp Watershed Association’s fundraiser scheduled at the same time. A free glass of wine will also be offered to each participant. Speakers will be giving talks on water quality, specifically in Chatham Township. Mr. Gallagher was hoping someone from the Borough could attend and comment on the Chatham Borough water supply. Chrwmn. Murphy offered to attend and give some points from the Borough’s recent water

report. Council Member Resto will send her additional information. Mr. Keating has a map showing where the local wellheads are located.

Before adjourning, Chrmn. Murphy asked Mr. Dey if he could do a write-up on the Pilgrim Pipeline for the Commission's website. Council Member Resto advised he would e-mail Mr. Dey the write-up as soon as he got home.

At 8:52 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 8 p.m., Room 212, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary