

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
September 12, 2018

8:00 p.m.

Chairman Kate Murphy called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:00 p.m. in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Borough Hall. Chrwmn. Murphy announced that all legal notices had been posted for this meeting.

The roll call was taken:

Name	Present	Absent
Kate Murphy, Chrwmn.	X	
John Tancredi		X
Ben Lampert	X – arrived 8:10 p.m.	
John Dey	X	
Patricia Soteropoulos	X	
Kevin Murphy	X	
Torri Van Wie		X
Joseph Treloar	X	
Kyle Muir	X	
Council Member Len Resto	X	
Liz Holler, Minutes Secretary	X	

Also present:

Susie Robertson, a member of the Green Team

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the July 11, 2018 meeting were approved as amended.

Reports/Pending Business

Sustainability Fair Recap

Chairwmn. Murphy noted that people who visited the Commission's table were given a survey to fill out, giving suggestions on what they would like to see in the Commission's proposed newsletter. The results will be tallied. Chrwmn. Murphy reported that some people had left their names to volunteer for the Green Team and the Environmental Commission.

Commissioners felt that the electric car display was very successful at the Fair. Mr. Treloar noted that all three current models of Tesla cars were represented, as well as other models.

Ms. Soteropoulos recommended, for next year's Fair, that actual parking spots be designated for these cars, so test drives can be done. Mr. Treloar noted that National Drive Electric Week is usually close to the date of the Sustainability Fair. He will check with the Plug in America website to see when National Drive Electric Week is scheduled for 2019.

Chwmn. Murphy reported that the Green Team had recently discussed electric vehicle readiness, especially the charging stations that would be needed.

Mr. Muir noted that to obtain the gold certification from Sustainable Jersey, a municipality would have to install chargers for electric cars.

On another point, Mr. Muir reported that he had sat in on the interviews of developers for the Post Office Plaza project. Many of the developers were interested in maintaining sustainability for their projects.

Mr. Treloar explained the different electric chargers that could be installed and the expenses involved. He suggested the possibility of installing chargers in the Borough parking lot behind Drip Coffee.

Chwmn. Murphy reported that she had listened to a webinar about a group who installed level-two chargers in a Princeton NJ parking lot. It cost \$20,000; however, they had obtained a \$7,500 grant from BMW. Cars are charged \$1.15 an hour. Mr. Treloar noted that Montclair NJ had a charger program similar to this one.

Mr. Lampert recalled that some years ago the Environmental Commission had grant money. At that time, the Commission wasn't fully acquainted with electric car chargers. Chwmn. Murphy believed that grant money was then used for installing energy-efficient windows at Borough Hall.

Mr. Lampert felt that residents could be made aware of the advantages of electric cars. An electric car could be promoted as the perfect vehicle for Chatham residents, especially for attending local events and running errands for the family. Hopefully Chatham municipal parking lots can someday support that lifestyle.

Ms. Soteropoulos brought up the discussions she had with Sustainable Fair attendees regarding composting. Some people asked if Chatham could do sidewalk composting as they do in the city.

Ms. Soteropoulos and Chwmn. Murphy both agreed that the Borough would have to hire a hauling business to collect this compost. Ms. Soteropoulos reviewed how the compost is collected in Lambertville and Princeton.

Chwmn. Murphy distributed a recent notice from the MUA notifying residents on special collection days in the Chatham area. The MUA included what items were acceptable and those that are not accepted.

Ms. Robertson explained how the Recycle Coach, a new app on cell phones, can help residents find out how to dispose of certain items.

Ms. Soteropoulos asked if caps on plastic bottles were now accepted by the recycling company.

Chwmn. Murphy answered that the caps are now accepted because the plastic bottles have become lighter. The caps give the bottle enough weight to send the bottle in the right direction for separation.

Borough Council

Council Member Resto had nothing to report at this time.

Organic Landscaping

Council Member Resto stated that he will need help from Commissioners on this matter. He is getting pushback from the Borough Council. The Council believes that it will be much more expensive to use organics on Borough property than to use TruGreen. Council Member Resto had recently received a memo from Mr. Torello, Director of Public Works, that organic use would cost the Borough \$40,000 a year. Commissioners felt these fees were not comparable because the services varied widely. The TruGreen contract is \$10,000.

Council Member Resto had discovered that Chatham Township is reevaluating the use of organics, thinking that they will return to TruGreen. He will explore this matter further with Tom Ciccarone, the Township Administrator.

After further discussion, Council Member Resto stated that he will meet with Mr. Torello and Borough Administrator Steve Williams to get clarity on the amounts and what is happening with the two Borough lawns in question.

The Commission brought up the matter of aeration on the lawns. Council Member Resto questioned if the Borough lawns had been aerated, there would there have been fewer weeds.

Council Member Resto stated that after he collects the needed information, he would like the Environmental Commission to do a Discussion Item on a future Borough Council Agenda, giving a presentation on organic landscaping. Perhaps Mike Kolenut from Lincoln Landscaping can help with this presentation. In the meantime, Council Member Resto will ask Mr. Ciccarone if Chatham Township was considering going back to TruGreen's services.

Commissioners discussed ways to alert the public about this presentation, especially residents who have expressed concerns about pesticides being used on Borough sites.

Summing up, Council Member Resto stated that he will set up a meeting with both Mr. Torello and Administrator Williams to talk about the organic use on Borough property. Mr. Dey and Ms. Soteropoulos offered to attend this meeting with Council Member Resto. Council Member Resto noted that hopefully the presentation on organics could be given at the October 22nd Council Meeting.

On another matter, Mr. Murphy asked if there was enough information on the Recycle Coach APP to write an article for the public.

Ms. Robertson and Council Member Resto recommended that he should wait on writing an article, until further revisions are made. The Borough will be renewing its contract with MUA, and changes will be made.

Council Member Resto pointed out that the Environmental Commission did an excellent job on the recent the Sustainability Fair. Mr. Treloar did an excellent job with the electric car display. The Commission's table received a number of visitors.

At 9:14 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 8:00 p.m., Room 212, middle level, Chatham Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris
Chatham Township Environmental Commission