

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

September 11, 2019

8 p.m.

Chairman Len Resto called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:30 p.m. in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Borough Hall. Chrnm. Resto announced that all legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Len Resto, Chrnm.	X	
Kate Murphy, Vice Chrnm.	X	
Patricia Soteropoulos	X	
Kevin Murphy	X	
Torri Van Wie	X	
Joseph Treloar	X	
Philip Kagan	X	
Ben Lampert	X	
Council Member Jocelyn Mathiasen	X	

Also present:

Rozella Clyde, member of the Borough Green Team

Alessia Fascina, an interested resident

Public Comment

There was none.

Reports/Pending Business

Planning Board

Mrs. Van Wie reported that the Board had recently approved a minor subdivision. Regarding Post Office Plaza and River Road, the Board will soon be moving on to the next phase of discussion with the developers.

Borough Council

Council Member Mathiasen reported that a public forum on River Road will be held in October. She noted that rumors have been circulating about the future of River Road. The public forum will give the public more accurate information.

On other matters, the Borough will be hiring three people to fill the three staff openings at Borough Hall.

Regarding the Borough web site, Council Member Mathiasen believed, in the future, the entire web site could be re-vamped in the future. Another option is hiring a provider who does the software for the Borough of Madison and produced an excellent website.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Mr. Treloar made a motion to adopt the minutes of the July 10, 2019 meeting as amended. Ms. Soteropoulos seconded the motion. The minutes of July 10, 2019 were approved as amended.

Sustainability Fair – September 14, 2019

Mrs. Murphy will bring a canopy. Dr. Clyde will bring a table. Mr. Treloar will bring additional tables for his Electric Vehicle display. Mrs. Murphy has located the Commission's banner for the Fair.

Mrs. Van Wie recommended that Commissioners take photos and document what materials they have on their table during the Fair for Sustainable Jersey.

Mr. and Mrs. Murphy will set up that morning around 7:30ish. Ms. Soteropoulos and others volunteered to staff the table.

Plastic Bag Ordinance introduction

Council Member Mathiasen reported that Chatham Township will be holding the First Reading of their plastic bag ordinance tomorrow night. She briefly reviewed how the surrounding communities are dealing with plastic bag ordinances. Council Member Mathiasen suggested that after this First Reading, Commissioners should feel free to submit letters to the editor regarding this issue.

Mrs. Van Wie asked Council Member Mathiasen to please email Commissioners reminding them the dates of the plastic bag ordinance readings.

The issue of balloons came up. Council Member Mathiasen suggested a directive could be given to Fishawack Festivals vendors that no balloons be given out to the public.

Recycling

Chrmn. Resto questioned whether MCMUA was enforcing any of their new rules.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that she had emailed MCMUA informing them that the Borough was looking forward to when the tagging process on recycling would begin.

Ms. Soteropoulos felt that the latest fliers and stickers have done a lot of good in reminding residents on what is acceptable for recycling.

Council Member Mathiasen suggested fliers could be printed, giving information on how to legally and safely dispose of more unusual items. She will work with Mrs. Piccolo on this idea.

Council Member Mathiasen pointed out that one of the Borough interns this summer did an audit on the contents of recycling bins in certain Borough neighborhoods. It was discovered that the Chatham Borough recycling gets automatically dumped into the Morris County recycling collection. Recycling credits are no longer given to each town.

Council Member Mathiasen suggested the Commission should push the concept of "reduce – reduce – reduce" when it comes to recyclables.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of giving a presentation on the plastics issue at the Library and/or Chatham High School.

Commissioners also discussed the possibility of installing water bottle fountains in Chatham Borough. Madison and Chatham Township have these type fountains.

Mr. Kagan offered to look into obtaining a grant to install these type fountains for the Borough.

Ms. Fascina suggested that newcomers to the Borough should receive information on recycling practices. Perhaps a letter could be sent to them, explaining how recycling is done in the Borough.

Commissioners brought up the irony of the Borough designating plastic bags for garbage pick-up. Council Member Mathiasen noted that the recycling contact is coming up for the Borough very soon. She suggested the Environmental Commission become involved with the contract discussions when it comes before the Borough Council.

Mrs. Van Wie brought up that Katelyn Osucha is working on her Golden Award for Girl Scouts. She was interested in seeing how plastic bags are not well processed at the MCMUA recycling facilities.

Chrmn. Resto noted that some time in October, another tour can be scheduled at the MCMUA recycling facility. The Deputy Director will be at the Sustainability Fair this Saturday. Chrmn. Resto will touch base with him.

Terracycle

Chrmn. Resto explained that terracycles are receptacles used for cigarette butts. The program, Keep America Beautiful, has provided the Borough with four such containers. Chrmn. Resto has asked NJ Transit if these containers could be installed on the Chatham train platform. He will submit photos of these receptacles to NJ Transit and where they could be installed. Smoking is prohibited on train platforms, but in reality it still goes on. Dr. Clyde suggested terracycles be placed at the beginning of the train platform and also close to the parking meter machine.

Composting

Chrmn. Resto reported that Owen Lee, the owner of OurCompost, is closing down this business. Mr. Lee found that the long drives to Pennsylvania, taking the mulch, were not really feasible.

Chrmn. Resto reported that Java Compost is still in business and may be participating in the Sustainability Fair this Saturday.

Electric Vehicle – Sustainable Jersey Gold Standard

Chrmn. Resto noted that he, Mr. Treloar, Mrs. Van Wie, and Council Member Mathiasen have been trying to meet with the Borough officials to ask for two parking spaces to serve as re-charging spaces for electric vehicles. The preferred parking lot for these two re-charging spaces would be Center Street West, close to Drip Coffee.

Mr. Treloar noted that Mayor Harris had questions about the finances for this installation. Mr. Treloar pointed out that Volta, a company, will install these re-charge stations and provide free electricity. Volta uses these stations for advertising purposes. Mr. Treloar felt Volta would be very attracted to the two parking spaces in Center St. West Lot, being so close to the busy downtown area.

Chrmn. Resto will send out some possible meeting dates with Borough officials to the subcommittee. The location of these charging stations still need to be decided on, as well as the financial details for this installation.

ANJEC Congress

Chrmn. Resto reported that ANJEC is holding its Annual Congress on Friday, Oct. 4th at Mercer Community College, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He strongly urged any Commissioners available that day to attend this worthwhile event.

At 9:00 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 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