

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
July 10, 2019

8:00 p.m.

Chairman Len Resto 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. 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:

Naila Ismail, CHS student and Senior Girl Scout

Maddie Kaplan, student, Chatham Middle School

Public Comments

There were none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Mr. Murphy made a motion to adopt the minutes of the June 12, 2019 Environmental Commission meeting as amended. Chrnm. Resto seconded the motion. The meeting minutes of June 12, 2019 were approved. Mr. Treloar abstained from voting because he was absent that night.

Reports/Pending Business

Planning Board

Mrs. Van Wie was not present to give a report. Chrnm. Resto noted that the Planning Board has not met for some time.

Borough Council

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Council has picked a developer for Post Office Plaza and a developer for River Road.

Recycling

Sustainability Fair

Chrnm. Resto reported that he had attended a meeting on the Fair, which will be held on Saturday, September 14th 8:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Mayor's Wellness Committee and the two Environmental Commissions from the Chathams will be participating. Chrnm. Resto suggested

the current recycling stickers, as well as other information, be available to the public. He offered to have copies of his recent presentation on plastics be available. Chrmn. Resto reviewed the number of civic groups that he had presented this talk to. These groups learned about the new regulations that the MCMUA will soon be enforcing for recycling collection.

Handouts on What's Recyclable

Council Member Mathiasen reported that she had met with Janice Piccolo to discuss the possibility of having Borough interns distribute the handouts door to door. Since it's illegal to put handouts in a mailbox, the interns would be forced to find other methods of dropping off the handouts at each house. Unfortunately, many of the handouts may end up flying around town instead, which would be counter-productive and embarrassing. Mrs. Piccolo has suggested the hand-out and sticker be included in the Mayor's letter which will be sent out on August 5th. Commissioners felt that would be doable.

Council Member Mathiasen suggested that the Borough interns and other interested volunteers be asked to do spot-checks around neighborhoods on Friday mornings. The interns can leave the handouts and stickers at the homes which are not complying with the new regulations. Commissioners agreed with this suggestion.

Council Member Mathiasen discussed the idea of having Terracycle containers on the train platforms for smokers to deposit their cigarette ashes. These containers are available free of charge from Terracycle for a limited time. Yana Doyle, a member of the Green Team, is ordering the maximum number of containers (4) which can be obtained for free. There was a question of who would empty these containers when they are full. Chrmn. Resto will contact the Government Affairs representative for NJ Transit to discuss installation of the containers and who would be responsible for emptying the contents when the containers are full.

Summing up, Council Member Mathiasen will order more stickers, with extra glue. They will be available for the public at the Library and at the Senior Center.

Chrmn. Resto raised the question of whether the Borough will be providing covered recycling bins for residents. He reported that he had spoken with Borough Administrator Williams about this possibility. Mr. Williams had explained that there is no money in the Borough budget to purchase these bins and have them available for residents. Council Member Mathiasen suggested further research be done on this idea. Perhaps the Borough could buy these bins in bulk for sale to residents.

Plastics Initiative

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the plastic bag ordinance is done and has been sent to the Mayor and Council for consideration. A 10-cent fee will be imposed for customers asking for paper bags.

Plastic Bags Survey status

Chrmn. Resto noted a good response was received from the local merchants. Council Member Mathiasen reported that Jeffrey Grayzel, the Mayor of Morris Township, wants to join this plastic bag ban. Council Member Mathiasen will send Mayor Grayzel a copy of the ordinance

being considered by Chatham Borough. This ordinance may be introduced in August or September.

Chrmn. Resto suggested the Borough could hold a Plastics-Free month for August or September.

Electric Vehicle Charging

Mr. Treloar explained that at this point, the Commission needs the Borough Council's approval for one or two charging spots for electric vehicles. These spots need to be located in a public lot as required by Sustainable Jersey for a maximum grant. Mr. Treloar noted that Mayor Harris had suggested designating a space for re-charging at the Center Street West parking lot near Drip Coffee.

Mr. Treloar pointed out that if the Borough were to install a non-charge, non-commercial point unit, the installation fee drops astronomically.

Chrmn. Resto brought up that the developer who is remodeling the parking lot behind the Sherwin Williams building on Main Street, which will soon be demolished, has offered to install two charging stations for electric cars. Mr. Treloar pointed out that particular parking lot is a private lot, which Sustainable Jersey won't recognize for points. Mr. Treloar stated a public parking lot with chargers would count. He explained the different levels for electric chargers. Mr. Treloar felt that Level 3 would not make sense for the Borough.

Mr. Treloar and Mrs. Van Wie are organizing a presentation to be given to the Borough Council regarding charging units for electrical cars. Mr. Treloar has researched two financial options to be considered. The Borough needs to designate two spots in public areas for these charging units. Mr. Treloar pointed out that these charging units will help keep our downtown modern and attractive to future businesses. These charging units will also attract out of town shoppers. Mr. Treloar will be working on the cost estimates for these installations.

Plastic Bag Collection – Library of the Chathams

Ms. Ismail reported that her plastic bag collection will come to an end in two to three weeks. This collection was her Girl Scout project to earn her Golden Award. Even though her collection box will soon be discontinued in the back hallway at the Library, however; Ms. Ismail has spoken with Borough Administrator Steve Williams about having a permanent collection box available in the Municipal Building. She has been delivering the plastic bags collected at the Library to Whole Foods in Madison.

Mrs. Murphy asked Ms. Ismail which of her plastic bag bins filled up faster – the Library bin or the high school bin. Ms. Ismail answered the Library bin.

Council Member Mathiasen suggested Ms. Ismail could give a presentation on this project to the Borough Council, and report on the volume of bags she collected. The public was very appreciative of this collection box.

Ms. Ismail noted two possible locations in Borough Hall that she and Administrator Williams discussed for a permanent plastic bag bin.

Council Member Resto will talk with Karen Brodsky, the Library Director, about the possibility of setting up a permanent collection bin at the Library. Mrs. Murphy knew from experience that plastic bag collection can be very labor-intensive for whoever undertakes a collection point.

Mr. Treloar asked if the Commission should look into a plastic drinking straw ordinance.

Council Member Mathiasen felt instead that the Commission concentrate on the plastic bag ordinance, and then deal with the other issue. However, Commissioners can still monitor the drinking straw issue.

Electric Aggregation

Council Member Mathiasen reported that a meeting was held with the consultant who does electric consolidation. It was revealed that no one goes 100% green. They just reach a higher percentage of being green. Council Member Mathiasen stated that the Borough would have to get an enabling ordinance to create this purchasing entity, appoint a consultant, etc. The market can be monitored to see if it becomes less expensive than what JCP & L offers. The purchasing entity can then go into the market to purchase energy at lower rates.

At 9:07 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

There will be no Environmental Commission meeting in August.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 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

