

## CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 14, 2021

8:00 p.m.

Chairman Torri Van Wie called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:00 p.m. Commissioners were present at this virtual meeting by way of Zoom. Chrnm. Van Wie read aloud the Statement of Adequate Notice. All legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Torri Van Wie, Chrnm.	X	
Patricia Soteropoulos, Vice Chrnm.	X	
Benjamin Lampert		X
Joseph Treloar	X	
Yana Doyle	X	
Susie Robertson	X	
Rozella Clyde	X	
Ernest Dorflinger	X	
Council Member Jocelyn Mathiasen	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

### Public Comments

There were none.

### Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The March 10, 2021 meeting minutes will be reviewed at a future meeting.

### Borough Council

Council Member Mathiasen have an update on the Stanley building. She and Council Member Dempsey had presented a video tour of the Stanley

building. It is hoped a steering committee can be formed to plan the future of the Stanley Building. Surveys and focus groups will also be held to determine what lies ahead for the building. Council Member Mathiasen pointed out that the outside of that building also has a great deal of potential. A much-needed new heating system will be installed.

Council Member Mathiasen discussed a recent survey that had been conducted about the various recreation facilities in town.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Borough Budget will be introduced next month.

Dr. Clyde confirmed with Council Member Mathiasen that the Borough Council passed the two Sustainable Jersey resolutions that were needed.

#### Planning Board Liaison Report

Ms. Holler reported that the minor subdivision proposed for a property on the corner of Yale Street and North Hillside Ave. was denied, even after the applicant had revised his plans.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the River Road Redevelopment Plan is moving forward. If approved, the building will probably not be built for a couple of years. Underground wiring will be installed if feasible.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the developer had discussed whether or not solar paneling should be installed on the River Road building or at another location. A shuttle bus for commuters is also being considered for this development.

Chrmn. Van Wie endorsed the idea of solar panels being installed on the roof-top of the River Road development building. If this precedent isn't done now, every single building will be replicated in the same way. She strongly felt the construction of building standards across the board

should be improved. Developers should be strongly encouraged to see things differently.

Council Member Mathiasen pointed out that the developer has to make sure there is room for solar paneling on the roof after all the necessary roof top equipment is installed. Mr. DeNave has been talking with solar power companies on this matter.

### Energy Aggregation

Council Member Mathiasen reported on a conference call that had been held with Mr. DeNave, Mayor Kobylarz, Administrator Steve Williams and herself with Robert Chilton of Gabel Associates. The next step, should the Borough decides to move forward, would be to pick an energy aggregation consultant.

Chrmn. Van Wie suggested instead of Chatham Borough joining the Hamilton Co-op, some thought should be given to tapping into other communities that part of the NJSMA energy aggregation working group. Chatham Borough could create their own co-op.

### EV Charging Ordinance Update

Chrmn. Van Wie noted that there is no update tonight. The draft ordinance is still being reviewed by the Borough planner. Council Member Mathiasen suggested the tweaks that had been made to the Berkeley Heights ordinance be sent to Mr. DeNave for his review.

### Microgrids & Community Solar

Chrmn. Van Wie would like to feel the pulse from the Borough Council and the community is general about where they feel solar paneling could be installed in the Borough. She pointed out that there are probably numerous companies would be willing to do an evaluation on available options.

Council Member Mathiasen suggested one expert be brought in to give his/her opinion, so as to avoid any spinning of wheels on this project. She

will ask Mr. DeNave for a meeting with the expert she had in mind to ask his advice on what would make the best sense on solar installation. Council Member Mathiasen pointed out that the Borough owns the railroad parking lot. It may make a good place for solar installation.

#### Borough Clean-up Day

Dr. Clyde noted that Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> has been designated by the Borough Council for the Clean-up Day being sponsored by the MyChatham Committee. Janice Piccolo would probably know the details. Chrmn. Van Wie said she will notify Chatham High about this event. She will let Kathy Abbott know to alert the Girls Scouts about this volunteer opportunity.

#### State of Kelley's Pond (behind Milton School)

Chrmn. Van Wie reported that someone had emailed her, commenting that the pond is not looking well. Chrmn. Van Wie noted that the pond has algae blooming in it off and on. Possibly this person had been concerned more about the under brush that grows around the pond.

Mr. Treloar offered to walk around the pond area and see what exactly the problem was.

#### Update Environmental Resource Inventory

This topic will be re-visited at a future meeting.

#### GSWA Plant Sale

Chrmn. Van Wie reported that the Great Swamp Watershed Association is holding a plant sale. Orders for plants can be done online. Volunteers are needed for this event. Chrmn. Van Wie has posted volunteer information on the community forum. Dr. Clyde will be participating with her own table and canopy, distributing plantings in the side yard of the Library for two mornings.

#### April "Earth Month" events

Dr. Clyde reviewed the four interesting events being planned for Earth Month. One of the events, the coyote program proved very popular.

Chrmn. Van Wie announced the Paradise for Pollinators webinar will be held tomorrow night. A number of people have signed up.

Mrs. Robertson gave an update on the Tri-town Yard Sale which is another Earth Month event. 112 households and organizations have signed up to participate. Mrs. Robertson explained how the Yard Sale's digital map worked. The Library of the Chathams will be holding a mini-book sale outdoors. The Independent Thrift Shop in Madison will donate 10% of their sales the day of the event to the GSWA. Mrs. Robertson noted that \$1200 has been raised by using the Great Swamp Watershed Association as the sign-up platform. The GSWA has collected the participation fees and have publicized the tri-town map showing the locations of participating garage sales. This event will take place this Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dr. Clyde added that the League of Women Voters will be holding a voter registration drive at Madison's Sunday Motor Co. Cafe who will be participating in this event.

#### Sustainable Jersey application process

Chrmn. Van Wie noted that the Green Team will be working on the application at their meeting next week. Dr. Clyde noted that Margie Lowe is keeping this application process on track. The resolutions that were needed from the Borough Council have been taken care of.

Dr. Clyde discussed a educational forum recently held by students of all levels in Madison. Students gave Zoom presentations of their different environmental projects. Perhaps this could be done in the Chatham schools next year.

Chrmn. Van Wie stated that she has met with the Assistant Superintendent of Schools and the School District's Supervisor of Science. The State has

mandated certain changes to the curriculum of local schools. Among the mandated subjects to be taught are climate changes and LGBTQ. These two topics must now be taught across all disciplines. Chrmn. Van Wie will mention the youth/green environmental studies to the Supervisor of Science to hopefully have it incorporated in next year's curriculum.

Chrmn. Van Wie reviewed Chatham High School's activities planned for Earth Week.

At 8:57 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 8:00 p.m. It will be a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Thaddeus Kobylarz  
Chatham Township Environmental Commission