

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
 October 12, 2022 8:00 p.m.

Chrmn. Susan Robertson called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order on 8:00 p.m. This meeting was held in Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building. Mrs. Robertson read aloud the Statement of Adequate Notice. All legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Susan Robertson	X	
Pat Soteropoulos	X	
Rozella Clyde	X	
Joseph Treloar		X
Ben Lampert	X	
Yana Doyle		X
Allison Slater	X	
Council Member Jocelyn Mathiasen	X – present by way of Zoom	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Public Comment

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Vice Chrmn. Soteropoulos made a motion to adopt the September 14, 2022 EC minutes as amended. Dr. Clyde seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The minutes of the September 14, 2022 EC meeting were unanimously approved.

Reports/Pending Business

Planning Board Liaison Report

Chrmn. Robertson, the Environmental Commission Liaison to the Planning Board, reported that the Board recently approved these 3 ordinances, deeming them consistent with the Borough’s Master Plan:

- Ordinance 22-10: Adopting an Amended and Restated Redevelopment Plan for Post Office Plaza Redevelopment Area, Block 121, Lots 10 & 17
- Ordinance 22-11: Reinstating Prior Zoning for Portions of the Post Office Plaza Redevelopment Area, as an amendment to the Land Development Regulations

- Ordinance 22-12: To authorize the Making of a Grant for the Development and Construction of Affordable Housing in, by, and for the Borough of Chatham, to appropriate the Sum of \$6 million to pay the cost thereof, to make a down payment, to authorize the issuance of Bonds to finance such appropriation, and to provide for the issuance of Bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds

Chrmn. Robertson also reported that Garden Terrace Nursing Home held its second and final hearing before the Planning Board. The nursing home is proposing to demolish a building next door and construct a wing to their existing building. Additional space is seriously needed. The applicant had presented these plans to both the HPC and the Planning Board. The Board approved the plans.

Chrmn. Robertson noted that the Post Office Plaza plans for Affordable Housing will probably be presented to the Planning Board some in January. Perhaps the Commission should recommend some environmental-friendly features for the proposed building. Vice Chrmn. Soteropoulos suggested wiring could be installed for a possible EV charger.

Borough Council Liaison Report

Council Member Mathiasen reported a meeting will be set up with the Borough Planner to update the Natural Resources Inventory that had been done in 2012.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that she had attended the NJ Clean Energy Conference. She has gathered literature from the different programs that had participated.

Council Member Mathiasen discussed the contract with Siel Energy. She suggested a publicity blitz be done for Chatham residents to learn about their home energy audits. A home audit for a resident would be \$49.

Council Member Mathiasen urged the EC to weigh in on the Post Office Plaza application when it comes before the Planning Board in late January.

Chrmn. Robertson discussed the Gold Star that the Borough could earn for Sustainable Jersey. It's possible the Borough could achieve the Energy Gold Star and the Health Gold Star.

Council Member Mathiasen discussed taking on a Community Health Assessment. She has reached out to Council Member Len Resto who is the Council Liaison on

the Board of Health. She will keep the Board of Health informed with Gold Health Star updates. Council Member Mathiasen noted that the Borough is eligible for a community solar project. The EC needs someone to do the spreadsheets for Sustainable Jersey.

Chrmn. Robertson discussed solar permitting, which can be done online.

Dr. Clyde asked what the status of the Borough's charging station is.

Council Member Mathiasen mentioned that a reimbursable grant that may be available for this installation. The Borough would have to hire someone to first install the EV charger, and then we get reimbursed.

Chrmn. Robertson asked about the solar paneling installation at the Sewer Plant.

Council Member Mathiasen answered that it was moving along. At Dr. Clyde's request, she will arrange a tour of the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant.

Chrmn. Robertson reported that Stanley Hall and ECLC had energy audits. There is grant money available.

Dr. Clyde discussed holding an event regarding energy audits at Stanley Hall.

Chrmn. Robertson said that the Borough still has to determine if the structure is safe to hold certain events. She will ask Janice Piccolo when that will be possible.

Ms. Slater brought up holding at least a mini community event for solar energy and home audits. Scott Fisher could be invited to be a speaker. Chrmn. Robertson said this could be looked into.

Sustainability Fair – a review

Chrmn. Robertson reported that there were a number of exhibits and vehicles on display. All ages attended. Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill paid a visit. Blue Foundary Bank was an enthusiastic participant.

Dr. Clyde suggested perhaps Blue Foundary could have a recycling receptacle at their bank. She reported there was a good response to the re-cycled crayon receptacles that have been placed in town. Perhaps used markers could also be collected in the future.

“How Green Are You?” business initiatives & residents' pledges – next steps?”

Ms. Slater felt there could be ways to get business people to attend a “How Green are You?” event. Emails do not work well with local businesses. An actual registry of the businesses has not been done yet. Ms. Slater said she was open for suggestions from Commissioners. She noted that even though the prices of Kings Supermarket seem high, they are a very green-oriented business. Something we can hope other local businesses could follow.

Ms. Slater reported that six local businesses are on board with the “How Green Are You?” initiatives and pledges. No responses have been received by the restaurants as of yet.

Vice Chrmn. Soteropoulos suggested Ms. Slater ask Janice Piccolo’s advice on when and where to hold an event for this Green program.

Ms. Slater reported that she has been in contact with Terry McCabe at Scoops. Perhaps he can help her in contacting other merchants. A survey could be given out to these merchants.

Fall Yard Sale

Chrmn. Robertson reported that the Town-Wide Yard Sale date has now been re-scheduled to this coming Saturday, October 16th.

2023 Borough Calendar

Chrmn. Robertson reviewed the proposed EC meeting dates for the 2023 Borough Calendar. Earth Day for 2023 still has to be decided on. The Sustainability Fair will follow the same format as this present year. A Repair Café event will be further explored.

Dr. Clyde reported that the Green Team will meeting Tuesday night, October 18th. Work will begin on the Natural Resources Inventory. Chrmn. Robertson reviewed the list of people who have been asked to participate – Borough Planner Kendra Lelie, Borough Administrator Steve Williams, Commissioner Yana Doyle, Janice Piccolo, and Council Member Mathiasen. Dr. Clyde recommended this inventory be re-named “Environmental Resources Inventory”. She felt “Natural Resources Inventory” was to narrow a field. Nowadays, items like solar paneling locations have to be taken into consideration.

At 9:03 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 8 p.m. in Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Kobylarz
Chatham Township Environmental Commission