

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 17, 2007

8:00 p.m.

Chairman Peter Kuyk called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, Middle Level, Chatham Municipal Building. Mr. Kuyk stated that adequate notice of this Environmental Commission meeting was given as required by the Open Public Meeting Act.

Members Present: Chairman Peter Kuyk, Lee Byrd, John Tancredi, Joan Thuebel, David Gerridge, Barbara Montague, Dick Ligertwood, Councilman Bruce Harris.

Also present was an interested observer, Bernie Vella.

Members Absent: Jay Stewart

Review/Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of September 19, 2007 were approved as amended.

Eagle Scout Project/Presentation

Michael Schofield of Boy Scout Troop 8 gave an oral and written proposal of work he will be doing in Wuhala Woods. Michael is planning to build a trail from Rutgers Street down to the Passaic River. He will also be constructing bog bridges. A detailed description of these bridges is in his written proposal. Michael will be constructing five informational displays. Each display will have a post in the ground with a sign. The displays will describe the different plants and animals that can be found in the woods and the history and ecology of the Passaic River area.

Michael Schofield said he will also try and clean up the trash in that area. He will promote this project by writing an article about Wuhala Woods for the local newspapers.

Mr. Byrd discussed the cost of the project with Michael. This project will cost an estimated \$670.56. The Jaycees and Dreyer's Lumber will be making generous donations.

Mrs. Montague asked Michael who will be helping him with this project.

Michael answered that he will ask his fellow troop members. If more workers are needed he will ask the Key Club at CHS for volunteers.

Councilman Harris asked Michael what he will do with the trash he collects.

Michael answered that he will take the discarded cans and bottles to the Recycling Center. Councilman Harris suggested that the other type of trash be put in bags. The DPW could be asked to pick up the bags on Rutgers Street.

The Commission unanimously approved Michael Schofield's Eagle Scout project.

Councilman Harris said he will write a note to the Borough Council concerning this project and inform them that the Commission has approved it. Mr. Kuyk will e-mail Councilman Harris the official approval on the Commission letterhead.

Michael departed the meeting. The Commission thanked him for his presentation and wished him well.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Kuyk distributed a letter from the Borough Administrator, Bob Falzarano regarding Resolution #07-256. This resolution authorizes video and audio recordings be made of certain committee meetings that are subject to the Open Public Meetings Act. Additional Borough meetings such as Open Space, Recreation, and Traffic Committee can be taped. Councilman Harris pointed out that currently there are not enough trained volunteers to tape all these meetings. For equipment reasons, televised meetings must be held in the Borough Council Chambers.

Mr. Kuyk distributed a memo from Barbara Bate to the Borough Administrator concerning the Recycling Meeting held September 20, 2007. Commissioners discussed the need for recycling bins needed for local athletic fields. Mr. Kuyk noted that Bob Venezia, Director of DPW, is working to get these type receptacles for area ball fields. The Borough, the School District, and the Board of Recreation would all have to work together on this idea.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Mr. Gerridge reported that the Board gave preliminary approval to Ogden Church's parking application.

Open Space

Councilman Harris urged Commissioners to vote "yes" on the two-part Open Space Referendum on Election Day, November 6th.

Borough Council

Councilman Harris reported that the Council will be starting the Capital Budget Process in the near future.

Old Business

Environmental Resource Inventory

Mr. Kuyk reported that Councilman Harris has the final version of the ERI. The ERI is formatted and ready to be put on the web site.

Keeping in mind that the ERI will be available electronically, Commissioners discussed how many copies should be made. They decided on 50 copies. Copies will be

distributed to the Library, the schools, the Commissioners, Planning Board members and the Mayor.

Bob Thompson Memorial

Mr. Kuyk, Mrs. Montague and Councilman Harris each had each drafted language for the plaque. Commissioners reviewed each draft.

Mr. Tancredi volunteered to order the plaque.

Mr. Ligertwood noted that the berm is currently very overgrown and needs help. Commissioners felt the weeding would be too much for one person to do by hand. Mr. Tancredi suggested the berm be roto-tilled and mulched. Chips should also be put down. Mr. Ligertwood offered to discuss this work with Mr. Venezia of the DPW. The DPW may also know where to find a large rock for the plaque.

Birdhouse installations

Mr. Ligertwood reported that the posts have been installed.

No Idling Resolution

Mr. Kuyk distributed copies of a slightly revised version of the no idling resolution that has been adopted by a number of communities. He felt the Commission should encourage no idling practices especially in areas close to schools and train stations. He felt the Commission should take a vote on this resolution and forward it on to the Borough Council.

Councilman Harris suggested instead that a Commissioner present the resolution to the Borough Council at their November 26th meeting. The presentation could be listed as an agenda item.

Bike Paths

Mr. Byrd reported that he had spoken with Kathy Abbott in Chatham Township about this project. Ms. Abbott will forward these plans on to the Township Open Space Committee to review. The Township Open Space Committee is interested in possibly linking the Township bike paths up with the Borough's paths. Mr. Byrd will be giving a bike path presentation to the Township Open Space Comm. He has also received a call from the City of Summit Traffic Committee about another possible link-up.

New Business

Public Comment

Bernie Vella, 48 North Summit Ave., noted that the Borough has 11 contaminated sites designated by the DEP. Most of these sites had filling stations on them. He suggested that the Planning Board should have a list of these 11 sites. The list should be kept up-to-date. If an applicant is proposing to build on one of these contaminated sites, Mr. Vella felt the Board shouldn't even hear the application until the site is cleaned up.

Mr. Kuyk explained that most clean-ups of small and medium-size sites occur when someone wants to buy the property. Not until that cash starts to be infused into the clean up process is when the job actually gets done. The property owner is generally selling the property because he doesn't have the cash to pay for the clean up.

Before adjourning, Commissioners discussed the LED signs which are lit up in some of the stores on Main Street. The local LED signs are small signs which usually advertise whether a store is open. Unlike the neon signs, LED signs are not prohibited by ordinance.

The next Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, November 28, 2007, 8 p.m. in the Conference Room, Middle Level.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Richard Plambeck
Chatham Township Environmental Commission
Long Hill Township Environmental Commission
Bernards Township Environmental Commission