

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 16, 2008

7:30 p.m.

Councilman Bruce Harris called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. in the employees' lounge, Middle Level, Chatham Municipal Building. Councilman Harris stated that adequate notice of this Environmental Commission meeting was given as required by the Open Public Meeting Act.

Members Present: Lee Byrd, Dick Ligertwood, Joan Thuebel, John Tancredi, Barbara Montague, John Bitar, Jay Stewart, Peter Kuyk, John Bitar.

Members Absent: none

Election of Officers

Councilman Harris opened the floor for nomination of officers. The following were nominated and elected: Lee Byrd, Chairman; John Tancredi, Vice Chairman; and Barb Montague, Secretary. Peter Kuyk and Jay Stewart are resigning from the Commission. Their resignation should be sent to the Mayor and the Borough Clerk. Joan Thuebel will move from an alternate to full membership on the Commission. The Commission needs one more full member and two alternate members. Following the election, Mr. Byrd took over as Chair.

Meeting minutes

The minutes of November 28, 2007 were approved as submitted.

Resolutions

The 2008 meeting schedule for the Commission was approved. Compliance and location of the meetings were approved. The Chatham Courier and the Morris County Daily Record will be the newspapers of record for 2008.

Correspondence

The following items arrived in the mail for the Commission:

- 1) A dues notice was received from ANJEC and will be sent to Dotty Klein, the Borough CFO, for payment.
- 2) A brochure from ANJEC on matching grants.
- 3) Meeting minutes were received from the Long Hill and Chatham Township Environmental Commissions. New Providence is starting an environmental commission and would like some advice.
- 4) Mr. Byrd will be the Commission's coordinator with Bob Venezia on Storm Water Education.

5) An article on “How Green is Artificial Turf” was received. Several other energy articles were also received.

Objectives

Councilman Harris said the Commission needs to set objectives for the coming year. Issues to consider are: Wuhala Woods development; No Idling; Bike Paths; and a Green Campaign. Councilman Harris and Mr. Tancredi both would like to see a plan for cleaning Wuhala Woods and the River Road Park. The Mayor is planning to set up a Green Initiatives Committee. The DPW and Borough Council are receptive to this. The Mayors of Highland Park, Montclair and Maplewood are leaders in making their towns “Green”. The Open Space Committee will now be made up of the Mayor and Council.

Someone is needed to keep track of the remediation sites in town. John Thuebel will do this.

Old Business

The plaque for the Bob Thompson Memorial is ready. Because of the school vacation, the dedication date was changed from 4/19/2008 to 4/12/08. The Commission will do a trail clean-up the same day. Publicity will be needed on this ahead of time.

Mr. Ligertwood reported that the 3 birdhouses that he put up by the river in Wuhala Woods have completely disappeared. Boy Scout Michael Schofield has done a great job on his Eagle Scout Project. To date, he has cleared one-half to three-quarters of a mile of brush and he has built 24/25 bog bridges for the trail. He has marked the trail with blue square blazes and he has made signs to tell about the woods.

No Idling: The draft resolution has been presented to the Borough Council. Twenty signs have been ordered.

Bike Paths: The Commission’s request for a NJ DOT grant for this project was turned down.

Environmental Resource Inventory: The ERI will be going to the Borough to be put on the town website. A CD ROM PDF will be needed to do this. Mr. Stewart has an electronic copy.

New Business

The question was brought up about how we should dispose of compact fluorescent Bulbs since they contain mercury vapor. At this time, it was thought that they should probably be disposed at the county’s hazardous waste site. Mrs. Montague will check to see who is in charge of recycling for the Borough.

The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

The next Commission meeting will be Wednesday, February 20, 2008, at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Commissioner Barb Montague
Substituting for Liz Holler, Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor V. Nelson Vaughan, III
Chatham Township Environmental Commission
Long Hill Township Environmental Commission
Bernards Township Environmental Commission