

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

May 16, 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: Peter Kuyk, David Gerridge, Dick Ligertwood, Barbara Montague, Joan Thuebel, John Tancredi, Councilman Bruce Harris.

Members Absent: Lee Byrd, Jay Stewart.

Minutes

The meeting minutes of April 18, 2007 were approved as amended.

All of the Commission meeting minutes will be posted on the Chatham Borough website once they are approved.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Kuyk distributed the following items:

Meeting minutes from the Long Hill Township Environmental Commission meeting.

Resolution from the Chatham Borough Council approving the commemorative plaque honoring the late Bob Thompson.

A flyer from the Restore, a business operated by Habitat of Humanity, to take in and sell left over building materials. This store is located in Mine Hill, NJ.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Mr. Gerridge reported that discussions are still ongoing with Shailja, LLC (also known as Dunkin Donuts) even though the application has been approved.

The Planning Board has approved a proposed building and retail space for 221 Main Street, the present location of the Colombian Café.

Mr. Gerridge is continuing his work on a proposed stormwater ordinance regulation for homeowners.

Borough Council & Open Space Committee

Councilman Harris reported that he had given a presentation to the Borough Council on the Open Space Tax. The next Open Space Committee meeting will be on May 17th. The Committee's June 14th meeting, when the Open Space Tax will be discussed, will be televised. From there, the Committee will make a recommendation at the July 9th Council Meeting on whether or not to expand the use of the Open Space Tax to development and maintenance of land. This matter will then become a referendum.

Councilman Harris also reported that the Open Space Committee is looking at the steep slope issue on Fairmount Avenue.

Old Business

Environmental Resource Inventory

Mr. Kuyk said he would follow up with Mr. Stewart on this project.

Westcott Memorial Trust Donation

Mr. Kuyk suggested the Westcott donation money be tied into the Open Space properties in Wuhala Woods/River Road. Some of the money could be used to clean out the invasive species in Wuhala Woods. Mr. Tancredi reported that he had spoken with some experts concerning the removal of this invasive species. The better qualified professional had offered to come and teach the Commissioners how to identify the species. However, most of the people Mr. Tancredi spoke with recommended Commissioners use the \$3500 to pay a landscaper to pull out the poison ivy and other harmful species. Mr. Tancredi felt it would be wiser to go ahead and pay a landscaper for this work, rather than hiring an expert to identify the species and depleting the donation funds.

Mrs. Montague, Mr. Byrd, and Mr. Tancredi will walk through Wuhala Woods to assess the situation more closely. Mrs. Montague suggested the invasive species could be eliminated in small portions. Once a portion is cleaned out, native plants could be put in and given a chance to thrive.

Mr. Kuyk and Mr. Tancredi will approach a couple of landscapers and get some idea of how much it would cost to at least cut down the thick vines going up the trees.

Bob Thompson Memorial

Mr. Kuyk asked if someone could find out how much the plaque will cost, what the wording should be, and the construction details at the berm. A big rock will have to be found.

Mr. Tancredi volunteered to take this project on. He will talk with the Borough Administrator regarding the costs involved.

Birdhouse installations

Mrs. Montague suggested installing the birdhouses in the berm at Shepard Kollock Park and in the lower field facing the river.

Mr. Kuyk said the DPW could put the poles in the ground and Commissioners could then mount the birdhouses.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Tancredi reported that after the Fire Department's recent fishing derby, he found enormous amounts of trash left behind in Milton Ave. woods. He noted that the pond area is cleaned up, but he has found bottles, cans, food wrappings, etc. at the entrance and exit areas of the woods. He has personally collected three bags of garbage in these areas. Perhaps a Clean-up Day could be held for this section. Councilman Harris noted that he and Mr. Byrd would be interested in this project.

Commissioners discussed the current bat house situation. Mr. Ligertwood said the scouts could build additional houses. Commissioners concluded that the existing bat houses need straightening up and have new foundations made.

There was nothing new to report regarding Environmental Purchasing. Mr. Tancredi noted that compact fluorescent light-bulbs have vastly improved. Councilman Harris suggested the Borough have an automatic shut-off system for their lights in their municipal offices.

The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 20, 2007, 8 p.m., in the Conference Room, Middle Level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Holler
Recording Secretary

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