

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
October 9, 20198 p.m.

Chairman Len Resto called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:00 p.m. in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Borough Hall. Chrnm. Resto announced that all legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Len Resto, Chrnm.	X	
Kate Murphy, Vice Chrnm.	X	
Patricia Soteropoulos	X	
Kevin Murphy	X	
Torri Van Wie		X
Joseph Treloar	X	
Philip Kagan		X
Ben Lampert		X
Council Member Jocelyn Mathiasen		X

Also present:

Bernie Vella, an interested resident  
Alessia Fascina, an interested resident and Borough Green Team member  
Dr. Rozella Clyde, Borough Green Team member  
Maddie Kaplan, a Chatham Middle School student

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Ms. Soteropoulos made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2019 Environmental Commission meeting as amended. Vice Chrnm. Murphy seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The minutes of the September 11, 2019 EC meeting were unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Chrnm. Resto and Mr. Vella held up and commented on a collection of plastic grocery bags given out by Stop N Shop in Madison, Shop Rite in Chatham Twp., and Quick Check. Commissioners questioned why many of these plastic bags had recycling numbers on them.

Chrnm. Resto showed disposable plastic cups, different sizes, that feature recycling numbers. One carry-out bowl was marked as a number 6 for recycling.

Ms. Fascina commented that she had heard recently on the radio that certain caps on bottles are supposed to be recyclable.

Mr. Treloar pointed out that plastic caps don't necessarily match the plastic bottles that they are attached to.

Commissioners discussed the confusing, ever-changing instructions the public receives for recycling.

Chrmn. Resto suggested that a meeting be held with the officials of the MCMUA and ask them to make the recycling rules easier for the public to understand. Unfortunately, the rules keep changing.

Chrmn. Resto noted that this coming Tuesday night (Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>) the Second Reading of the plastic bag ordinance will be held. If this ordinance is passed, plastic bags will be banned starting on March 1, 2020. Some New Jersey communities already have plastic bag bans in place, such as Livingston, Millburn, Hoboken and others.

After further discussion, Chrmn. Resto will show the MCMUA these plastic bags collected by Mr. Vella, bringing the recycling numbers to their attention.

#### Announcements

Chrmn. Resto reported that National Wildlife Refuge Week is coming up. A Sunset Walk will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Great Swamp Watershed Reserve. This walk will show the swamp's beautiful wild life and bird life.

#### Terracycle

Chrmn. Resto will be touching base with NJ Transit about this matter. He just received the needed photographs.

#### Planning Board – Liaison Report

Chrmn. Resto noted that Mrs. Van Wie reported that there is nothing new to report from the Planning Board. However, Ms. Holler reported that a joint Meeting between the Planning Board and Borough Council was held the night of September 29<sup>th</sup> regarding the River Road Development Project.

Dr. Clyde summarized the presentation that was given at the Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> joint meeting by the architect and the developer for this River Road development.

Dr. Clyde reported that this Joint meeting was well attended by the public. Traffic concerns were voiced. Also, the vice president of the Board of Education was present at meeting and questioned where the funding will come from with these additional students from these new buildings, particularly from the rental units.

Dr. Clyde recommended that Commissioners first view the televised recording available on the Borough website, before submitting any comments or questions in the commentary section on the Borough website.

Ms. Soteropoulos and Chrmn. Resto wished that there would be one floor condo units available for senior citizens hoping to remain in Chatham.

Chrmn. Resto asked Ms. Kaplan if she could email some of her young friends to view the Joint meeting televised recording and submit comments.

## Recycling

### Report on the MCMUA tour by Susie & Alessia

Ms. Fascina described the workings of the MCMUA facility which handles recycling. She reported that the tour was 30 minutes long and was very “generic”. It felt like a hurried experience. The tour guide asked that Chatham residents cover their recycling bins. Rain-soaked recyclables are difficult for workers to process.

Ms. Fascina reported the confusion about putting shredded paper in clear plastic bags, whether it was an acceptable practice for MCMUA.

Chrmn. Resto said he would speak with Borough Administrator Steve Williams about getting Recycle Coach up and MCMUA operating on the same page. Residents need more clarity around recycling rules. Also, he will arrange to meet with Liz Sweedy of the MCMUA and John Bonnani, the County Administrator. Chrmn. Resto asked that some Commissioners accompany him to this meeting.

On her tour, Ms. Fascina brought up the question of who would accept the caps from used plastic bottles. Mr. Resto mentioned Powerflow Yoga is collecting bottle caps.

### Plastic bags drop-off at the Library – coordination

Chrmn. Resto reported that the DPW has agreed to collect the plastic bags from the Library during the work week and take them to Whole Foods. There was some question as to coordination with Whole Foods for accepting the bags.

Ms. Soteropoulos researched on her cell phone and found out that Customer Service at Whole Foods would be the correct entity to accept the plastic bags.

Mr. Murphy suggested that the Library put up a sign thanking residents for their plastic bag donations and asking them to please take the bags to Whole Foods or other supermarkets that collect bags. He questioned why the Borough should be participating in this particular collection.

## Plastic Ordinance

Chrmn. Resto reported that the Second Reading and Public Hearing for the plastic bag ordinance will be held at the Borough Council meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>. He urged Commissioners, if they were available, to attend this hearing and consider offering comments in support of the ordinance.

## Electric Vehicles

Mr. Treloar reported that Chrmn. Resto, Mrs. Van Wie, and himself held a conference call with a representative from Volta. Volta is willing to pay for the installation and electric hook-up for a charging station for electric cars. Volta is interested in a parking spot located in the municipal parking lot in Center Street West. If two parking spaces could be set aside for electric car re-charging, it would totally fit Volta’s model.

Mr. Treloar noted that this installation would cost zero for the Borough. Volta will automatically reimburse the Borough for the electric bills. Volta will work off of the Borough rate card. Volta will have a large TV screen attached to their charging station, showing their advertisements. Mr.

Treloar explained how Volta's "flip advertisements" work at their installations. Community events could also be announced on these flip advertisements.

Mr. Treloar felt the two parking spaces in the Center Street West Municipal Lot, closest to Main Street, would be excellent for the Volta installation. He has observed that those two spaces are very often vacant during the day. These spaces will also provide good visibility for Volta's advertisements. The Borough will also be receiving \$150 rental fees per month from Volta.

Some Commissioners pointed out that the advertising signage would have to be reviewed by the Borough Planning Board to conform with the Borough Sign Ordinance.

Mr. Treloar noted that an ordinance for a free electric car charging installation would help the Borough to obtain the Gold Star Certification from Sustainable Jersey.

Related to this topic, Dr. Clyde distributed copies and discussed a recent ANJEC workshop: "EV in Dog Years: EV Charging Station Experience in South Orange, NJ". The hard copy report contained an aerial map where the electric charging station is located in South Orange. The report also discussed some of the ways the State is undertaking to enhance the use of electric vehicles.

At 9:15 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 8:00 p.m., Room 212, middle level, Chatham Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris  
Chatham Twp. Environmental Commission