

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 10, 2019

8:00 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 has been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Len Resto, Chrnm.	X	
Kate Murphy. Vice Chwmn.	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:

Dr. Rozella Clyde, a member of the Borough Green Team

Chrnm. Resto introduced Philip Kagan, a new member of the Environmental Commission.

Chrnm. Resto noted that this Friday an Open House will be held at Borough Hall. Students and residents will be visiting the municipal building and hearing how local government works. Chrnm. Resto stated that he will be representing some of the groups that he is involved with. He will have updated info on the Borough's Recycling rules.

Council Member Mathiasen noted that the two major issues that need attention are the recycling of plastics, and the collapse of the recyclables market overseas. It's become very important not to have recyclables that are contaminated. Council Member Mathiasen reported that Chrnm. Resto had given an excellent power-point presentation at Monday night's Council Meeting (April 8) reminding

residents of the Borough's recycling rules. Council Member Mathiasen explained the "Tag It & Leave It" method that the MUA will be doing soon for recyclable items that are put out by residents. Unacceptable items will be tagged and left behind.

Council Member Mathiasen stated that the Borough's videographer will be asked to make Chrmn. Resto's presentation into a video clip to be posted on the Borough website and re-broadcast on Channel 21. Council Member Mathiasen noted that Borough Administrator Steve Williams will update the recycling information on the Borough website. She asked Commissioners to take a look at the current recycling info on the Borough website and offer any helpful suggestions.

For his power-point presentation, Chrmn. Resto suggested a slide could be added what recycling is costing other towns. Mr. Murphy suggested that residents be reminded that only clear plastic bags should be used to contain shredded paper for recycling pick-ups.

Council Member Mathiasen and Commissioners discussed how to effectively distribute the flyer from the Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA) giving the latest directives for correct recycling. Perhaps a very short version could be announced on the Police Dept. Mobile sign. Also, the fliers could be rubber-banded to the green garbage bags at the local supermarkets.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that other communities give out stickers to remind people what can or cannot be recycled. She felt that 5,000 stickers like these could be printed up at a decent price.

Related to this topic, Mr. Treloar pointed out some inconsistencies between Chatham Borough's Recycle Coach and the recycling directives listed on the MUA document. This has been an ongoing issue with Recycle Coach.

Chrmn. Resto offered to contact Liz Sweetin of the MUA to set up a meeting to iron out these inconsistencies. Council Member Mathiasen is welcome to participate in this meeting.

Council Member Mathiasen suggested that the new recycling stickers could be distributed at the Library, the Senior Center, Borough Hall, etc. Perhaps volunteers could attach them to the packets of green garbage bags in the stores.

Chrmn. Resto will contact Mr. Day, the Borough CFO, to see how much remains in the Commission's budget.

Commissioners discussed the correct procedure residents must follow for Bulk Collection Days. Unfortunately, some residents have been putting their bulk out days in advance of their assigned pick-up day.

Returning to the recycling stickers, Mr. Treloar will give Council Member Mathiasen the contact number of a good graphic designer he knows.

Chrmn. Resto reminded Commissioners that the NJ Environmental Commission is holding a workshop on May 16th at the Madison Community House on Cook Avenue. He noted some of the Chatham Borough Commissioners have already signed up. Additional Commissioners expressed interest in attending this event.

Plastic Initiative

Bags ban

Chrmn. Resto reported that 44 municipalities in New Jersey have banned plastic bags. Council Member Mathiasen was advised that any proposal to ban plastic bags in the community, should be proposed by the Environmental Commission before an ordinance is introduced. She suggested the Commissioners attend the workshop on May 16th before making this proposal. Chrmn. Resto will look into scheduling a presentation on a plastic bag ban at one of the Borough Council meetings in June. Chrmn. Resto pointed out that the Commission should talk with local merchants about plastic bags. Council Member Mathiasen suggested that the Farmers Market be approached about donating recyclable bags. Chrmn. Resto suggested one of the local banks could be asked to contribute the bags.

Chrmn. Resto reminded Commissioners, if they haven't signed up already, please let him know if they can attend the May 16th workshop, so he can make reservations.

Green Team Activities

Mr. Treloar brought up the Drive Electric Green Day is designated for April 27th. However, he felt the public turn-out may not be good on that particular date in Chatham. Instead, Mr. Treloar suggested the Commission plan an electric car display/demonstration for Fishawack Day. Mr. Treloar explained that more time is needed to reach out to other electric vehicle (EV) drivers. He knew of an EV website that would be an excellent resource for this event.

Dr. Clyde discussed the hand-out she had distributed: “Care for our Mother Earth Week April 22-27, 2019” which suggested environmental-friendly reminders for each day of that week. On the back of the sheet are the items that are accepted at the Borough Recycling Center. Dr. Clyde noted that the original idea, as noted on this hand-out, was to hold the electric/hybrid vehicle display at the Borough Recycling Center. However, Mr. Williams, the Borough Administrator, didn’t feel the Recycling Center would be the best place for this display. The yard doesn’t have a good road surface, and can get muddy.

Dr. Clyde suggested that the 5-day reminder in her hand-out could be put on the Environmental web page. She will remove the line about the electric/hybrid display. Mr. Murphy suggested removing the particular light bulb shown on the Friday reminder. That particular bulb is no longer recommended.

Commissioners gave Dr. Clyde permission to duplicate her hand-out for Mother Earth Week to give out to Borough Hall visitors this Friday.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Vice Chrmn. Murphy made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 13, 2019 as amended. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The meeting minutes of March 13, 2019 were approved as amended.

Composting

Chrmn. Resto noted that Ms. Soteropoulos will report on this item at a future meeting.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that Princeton NJ has suspended their composting program. She suggested Commissioners look at that town’s website to understand why this program was halted.

Swap Meet

Ms. Robinson will discuss this event at a future meeting.

Riverside Trail

Chrmn. Resto reminded Commissioners that there will be a trailside walk at Shepard Kollock Park, 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. this coming Saturday, April 12th.

Pilgrim Pipeline

Chrmn. Resto reported that there is still plenty of money in the municipal pipeline group’s escrow fund.

At 8:55 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris
Chatham Township Environmental Commission