

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

November 11, 2020

8:00 p.m.

(Note: Meeting held via Zoom conference due to the Governor's Health Emergency order related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. All news outlets informed of the change and a notice was posted on the entrances to Borough Hall)

Chairwoman Kate Murphy called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom Conference. Chrmwn. Murphy read aloud the Statement of Adequate Notice. All legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Kate Murphy, Chair	X	
Patricia Soteropoulos, Vice Chair	X	
Rozella Clyde	X	
Torri Van Wie	X	
Joseph Treloar	X	
Philip Kagan		X
Ben Lampert	X	
Susie Robertson	X	
Yana Doyle	X	
Jocelyn Mathiasen, Council Co-Liaison	X	
Len Resto, Council Co-Liaison	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public. However, Chairwoman Murphy announced that she will be stepping down as Chair of the Environmental Commission in the new year. She and Mr. Murphy will be spending more time at their out of state residence.

Council Member Resto stated that he will contact Mr. Kagan about his membership status on the Commission.

Dr. Clyde thanked Chairwoman Murphy for all her hard work on the Commission.

Chrwmm. Murphy said it was an honor to work with such fine Commissioners. She agreed to remain on the Borough's Green Team.

Motion to Adopt Minutes

Dr. Clyde made a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 14, 2020 Environmental Commission meeting as submitted. Ms. Soteropoulos seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the October 14, 2020 minutes were approved as submitted.

Reports/Pending Business

Planning Board

Mrs. Van Wie reported that the Board has been reviewing the Borough's bulk requirements, particularly the scale of a home in relationship to the plot of land it sits on. Also, the Board has reviewed the method in which to measure the height of a local building.

Mrs. Van Wie also reported that the River Road development project is moving ahead. Much thought has been given to making this development as environmentally green as possible, construction-wise. Working toward LEED Certification on this project would be very expensive and time-consuming.

Council Member Mathiasen added that there will be three public hearings held in the future about the River Road development. Public comments will be heard. She pointed out that it is very costly for the developer to just sit on this property and not begin work. After the public hearings, the development plan goes on to the Planning Board. Right now the Borough is working on a financial agreement with the developer. Any environmental measures that the Borough recommends would have to be known by the development when the financial agreement is being worked on.

Council Member Mathiasen recommended that the Commission have some environmental experts to give feedback on this project.

Ms. Soteropoulos asked Mrs. Van Wie and Council Member Mathiasen to recall what items the Environmental Commission had requested for consideration for this development.

Mrs. Van Wie recalled these green items had been recommended: solar panels on the roof, the pre-wiring of the electrical conduits, energy efficient windows, digitalization of the HVAC system, having zip cars available. As a selling factor to future owners, the building should have the facilities to run an online APP.

Council Member Mathiasen noted that low water landscaping with native plants had been looked at.

Council Member Mathiasen stated that she will keep Mrs. Van Wie in the loop of this project.

Dr. Clyde asked if there was any possibility will be a mixed-use.

Council Member Mathiasen answered no.

Dr. Clyde had concerns about this building being constructed so close to the sidewalk. A residential home would require a deeper setback.

Council Member Mathiasen did not feel the site plan for this building has changed much. The current design cannot be eliminated at this point.

Mrs. Van Wie pointed out that the architectural group involved in this project is very experienced with sustainable development.

Borough Council

Council Member Resto reported that he had nothing environmental-wise to report on.

Solid Waste Contract

Council Member Mathiasen reported that 805 responses were made to the recent Solid Waste survey.

Council Member Mathiasen discussed the two options that are being considered for this new Borough contract:

- 1) Stay with the program that currently exists
- 2) Get away from the green trash bags & use standard sized containers

Regarding Option 2, Council Member Mathiasen explained that each household will use a 90 gallon container, which will be the maximum of what a family can throw out in a week.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that she and Council Member Treloar are working on the RFPs with the attorneys and will report the comparisons to the Commission on this matter. There is a possibility that clean fuel trucks could be used.

Council Member Mathiasen noted that in the survey, no one wants the bulk pick-up to change in any way. However, she recommended that some disciplinary measures be imposed on the bulk pick-up.

Referring to the green bag pick-ups, Council Member Resto reported that the cost of insurance has gone up for the hauling trucks because the workers compensation has shot up over the last five years due to the weight of items to be lifted into the trucks.

Ms. Soteropoulos brought up the idea of having some free bulk allowed. Beyond a certain amount of bulk, the resident would have to pay.

Council Member Mathiasen pointed out that no one will come around with a scale to measure the bulk a resident puts out each month.

Mr. Treloar explained how a sticker-system could be used on bulk items on a month by month basis.

Council Member Mathiasen agreed saying stickers could be used for one or two items beyond what is in the garbage container. One sticker is rated for furniture, one for appliances, etc.

Mr. Treloar and Council Member Mathiasen agreed that residents would have to be educated on what is acceptable under the new bulk pick-up requirements. It's not good to see a couch or table being left behind by a resident who doesn't understand how the pick-up works.

Council Member Mathiasen stated that the bids for Solid Waste Collection will be out next month. There will be a couple of months for companies to submit their bids. The bids will not specify what the sticker program will be. There will be enough time for the Borough to figure out how to charge the residents for pick-up.

Council Member Mathiasen will send Commissioners a link to the results of the Solid Waste Survey. The comments are very interesting.

Council Member Resto noted, from the survey, residents either love the green bags or hate them. It's about 50-50.

Mrs. Van Wie reported that the zoom meetings for the working groups have begun. The Green Transportation and Fleet group will be meeting tomorrow. The Green Construction and Energy Efficiency group will probably meet the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. The mission of the working group is being organized, and hopefully will be done before the holiday season. A "road map" of future accomplishments will also be created.

Mrs. Van Wie mentioned the number of towns involved in this multi-town environmental group and the timely topics that they cover.

EC Changes to Borough website

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Borough will soon be creating an entirely new website. The "skeleton" has been organized. She felt that it would now be a good time for Boards and Commissions to update their pages on the website. Council Member Mathiasen suggested one of the Commissioners could start work on the EC webpage. She is hoping the Borough goes live with the new website in January 2021. Borough activities like pet licenses and burglar **alarm** licenses will be going live at that time.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the current Borough website has outdated information and broken links that need cleaning up.

Dr. Clyde reported that the Green Team has cleaned up its page and eliminated any broken links.

Mrs. Van Wie asked if there was a way to tag the EC's social media feeds for people to click on.

Council Member Mathiasen answered probably. She will look into that. She also reported that a new social media policy will be established for the Borough. The Borough's insurance company has required this action. Certain disclaimers have to be put on the Commission's Facebook page.

Mr. Lampert asked Council Member Mathiasen to send him the social media policy.

Updates to the "Mad-Chats" cooperation

Dr. Clyde reported that Madison and the two Chathams are working on a joint climate action plan. One of the projects is how to limit carbon footprints.

Mrs. Van Wie spoke highly of Madison Borough's environmental projects, such as an Earth Day Clean-up Day. Chatham Borough would join in on activities like this. Dr. Clyde added that an electrical vehicle (EV) day, like Madison's, could be held by virtual means.

ANJEC Sustainable Jersey Application progress report

Dr. Clyde reported that nothing yet has been filled in on the application; however, information is being gathered. Information will probably not be filled in until March or April. The Green Team will be meeting next Tuesday and will discuss what activities the team will pursue in the future months.

Mrs. Van Wie asked Dr. Clyde if she had heard if Sustainable Jersey had extended their deadline because of the pandemic.

Dr. Clyde answered that she had checked their website this afternoon. Nothing was mentioned.

Ms. Doyle asked when is the deadline for submitting the application.

Dr. Clyde answered June 1, 2021. She felt it would be a good move for the Commission to start inputting information at the end of March or beginning of April. Some environmental activities will have to be planned, probably by virtual means.

At 9:04 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 8 p.m. It will be a virtual meeting, held by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary