

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 8, 2020 8:00 P.M.

Chairman Len Resto called the Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:00 P.M. in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Borough Hall. Chairman Resto read aloud the Statement of Adequate Notice. All legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

| Name | Present | Absent |
|------------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Len Resto, Chair | X | |
| Kate Murphy, Vice Chair | X | |
| Patricia Soteropoulos | X | |
| Torri Van Wie | X | |
| Joseph Treloar | X | |
| Philip Kagan | X | |
| Ben Lampert | | X |
| Jocelyn Mathiasen, Council Liaison | X | |
| Liz Holler, Recording Secretary | | X- Planning Board |

Also, present:

1. Rozella Clyde, Ph.D., Borough Green Team Member
2. Matt Pasko, Boy Scout & Eagle Scout Candidate
3. Teagan Richichi, Boy Scout & Eagle Scout Candidate

Chairman Resto departed from the formal agenda to allow Boy Scouts Matt Pasko and Teagan Richichi to describe their ideas for their Eagle Scout projects. Matt explained that his proposal involved making Wuhala Woods more accessible. He proposed building a bench or two surrounding a new kiosk which would contain information on the trail. He also proposed clearing some of the area of overgrown brush and using gravel to provide parking for up to 2 cars. Finally, he would mark a trail along the driest portion of Wuhala Woods to the existing bird blind where a bog bridge could be built. For the bog bridge, they would need the assistance of the Borough's DPW. Chairman Resto indicated he would speak with Tony Torello, DPW Director. Teagan Richichi mentioned his wanting to either partner with Matt or build new picnic tables at Stanley Park as the current tables are beyond repair. Commissioners felt these were good projects and asked both Scouts to come to the February meeting with a formal presentation including costs, materials, time to completion, etc.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE

Commissioner Torri Van Wie was appointed to another regular term and Chairman Resto administered the oath of office to Mrs. Van Wie. Mrs Van Wie signed the formal appointment document which Chairman Resto indicated he would give to Recording Secretary Liz Holler who had a conflict and could not attend this evening's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The only public comment was made earlier by Boy Scouts Matt Pasko and Teagan Richichi. There was no other public comment.

MOTION TO ADOPT MEETING MINUTES

Council Liaison Mathiasen first explained that Mayor Kobylarz felt the Environmental Commission was doing so much that it merited two liaisons and that newly appointed Council Member Len Resto would also be a Council Liaison going forward along with Ms. Mathiasen.

Council Liaison Mathiasen made an amendment to the Commission's December 11, 2019 minutes. The change was on page 1, under "Borough Council", 2nd paragraph. The last sentence was to be deleted: "She reported that the First Student Bus Company property has been sold.". Commissioner Soteropoulos made a motion to approve the minutes as amended with Vice Chair Murphy seconding the motion. All voted in favor except Commissioner Treloar who abstained as he was absent for the December 11, 2019 meeting.

RESOLUTION #20-01

RESOLUTION OF THE CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR 2020

Chairman Resto reviewed the meeting dates and noted there is no meeting scheduled for August. Vice Chair Murphy made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Treloar. All in favor. See attached for the full wording of the Resolution.

RESOLUTION #20-02

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR THE PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES FOR THE YEAR 2020

Chairman Resto read aloud the resolution. Commissioner Van Wie made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Kagan, all in favor. See attached for the full wording of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION #20-03

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF CHATHAM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR THE YEAR 2020

Motion made by Commissioner Van Wie to select Vice Chair Murphy as Chair for the year 2020 and Commissioner Patricia Soteropoulos as Vice Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Treloar, all in favor. See attached for the full wording of this Resolution.

REPORTS/PENDING BUSINESS

Planning Board

Commissioner Soteropoulos reported that this evening's Planning Board meeting was a reorganization meeting with no other business transacted.

Borough Council

Council Liaison Mathiasen reported on the redevelopment issues in the Borough and how both Post Office Plaza and River Road would be fully vetted with the public and the process slowed down to allow further deliberation and to bring new Council Members up to date on what has transpired thus far. She indicated the Borough would be hiring consultants to assist with the financial and traffic issues related to both redevelopments. Ms. Mathiasen also reported on an excellent meeting with the Board of Education regarding PILOT monies. Discussions will be ongoing.

On the Plastic Bags Ordinance, Ms. Mathiasen reported that the State was delayed on passing a statewide Plastic Bags Ordinance and if no action were to be taken in this legislative lame duck session, it would have to be brought up anew in the new legislative session. She indicated the municipalities that have passed Ordinances would move forward. Council Liaison Resto raised the issue of public education and Mrs. Van Wie noted she was working with the group formed by Chatham Township resident Jessica Romeo on distributing packets to all businesses explaining the ins and outs of the Ordinance and the reasons behind it. Mrs. Murphy indicated public information sessions could be conducted at the Library. Dr. Clyde observed that given the March 1, 2020 inception date, educational sessions needed to happen in February. All concurred. Another idea was to spread word through the schools by conducting programs in their auditoriums. Mr. Resto indicated he had written Peapack-Gladstone Bank Manager, Peter Rippa, asking if the bank would donate free reusable bags towards our efforts. Mr. Resto believes the Bank will be favorably inclined to do so. Mrs. Van Wie will create a flyer that can be displayed by stores and will work with the Department of Community Services to get this accomplished.

Terracycle

Council Liaison Resto indicated he would work with Green Team member, Yana Doyle, on formulating a presentation to be made to the Borough Council to get their buy-in on the Terracycle bins. Once the Council approves, they would pass a resolution asking NJ Transit to allow the bins to be placed at the train station.

Earth Week 2020

Dr. Clyde will be spearheading this effort and she reported she had already taken steps to secure display space at the Library. The Chatham Middle School Environmental Club, headed by Maddie Kaplan who was ill and could not attend our meeting, will assist Dr. Clyde. Dr. Clyde will contact Maddie in a few days.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Council Liaison Resto indicated we would get this moving again and proposed to meet with Commissioners Van Wie and Treloar to discuss. We will formulate a presentation to the Borough Council with several suggested EV Charging sites.

Riverside Trail

Council Liaison Resto reported that the Chatham Borough DPW had done a great job in re-wood chipping the trail as well as extending it to Vine Street. New logs have been put in place along with slate benches. He urged Commissioners to visit.

Wuhala Woods

See the Boy Scout paragraph above. One of the other ideas Council Liaison Resto had given the scouts was to prepare a document that would show where recreation sites are located, and this would include Wuhala Woods.

Rain Garden

Discussion was moved to the next meeting as it was late in the evening.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 8:00 P.M., Room 212, Middle Level, Chatham Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Resto
Acting Recording Secretary

Cc: Mayor Thaddeus J. Kobylarz
Chatham Township Environmental Commission