

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 9, 2022 8:00 p.m.

Chrmn. Torri Van Wie called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:00 p.m. Commissioners were present at this virtual meeting by way of Zoom. Mrs. Van Wie read aloud the Statement of Adequate Notice. All legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Torri Van Wie	X	
Pat Soteropoulos	X	
Rozella Clyde	X	
Joseph Treloar	X	
Ben Lampert		X
Yana Doyle	X	
Susie Robertson	X	
Council Member Jocelyn Mathiasen	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Our thanks to Dr. Clyde for serving as the Zoom hostess for this meeting.

Council Member Mathiasen indicated that a scout will be giving a presentation tonight. She has contacted Steve Williams on how to allow this scout to join the meeting as a Zoom guest. Commissioners decided to move the Public Comment further down the agenda until the scout could be included in the meeting.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Dr. Clyde moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2022 Commission meeting as submitted. Mr. Treloar seconded the motion. A

voice vote was taken. The January 12, 2022 minutes were approved as submitted.

Reports/Pending Business

Borough Council Liaison Report

Council Member Mathiasen reported that interviews are being held to fill the position of Borough Clerk. Two strong candidates are currently in the running. Council Member noted that Chrmn. Van Wie will be giving her presentation for the Commission at the February 14th Council Meeting. The Climate Action resolution will also be on that meeting's agenda.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the new Borough Attorney would like to have a conversation concerning electricity consolidation.

Chrmn. Van Wie outlined the topics that she will discuss at the upcoming Council meeting. She noted that Mayor Kobylarz wants her to review the six action items for the Gold Star for Energy.

Planning Board Report

Chrmn. Van Wie reported that the Planning Board has not met for a while. She has nothing to report.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that Glen Turi, the Borough's new Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement Officer is currently reviewing the Land Use Code to stream-line and update it. Council Member Mathiasen anticipates that the Planning Board will have a list of updates to recommend.

Council Member Mathiasen noted that Anna Rice, a BSA Scout, is now present at an attendee for this Zoom meeting.

Council Member Mathiasen informed Ms. Rice that the Environmental Commission would really like to see the phosphorus at Kelley's Pond be removed.

Council Member Mathiasen noted that Ms. Rice was undertaking an Eagle Scout project. What would she need from the Commission in terms of proceeding with this project? What objectives do you have to achieve with this Eagle Scout project? There may be other projects to help the pond.

Ms. Rice confirmed that there was a great deal of algae in Kelley's Pond, which lowers the oxygen level. She offered to do some tests to see what she could do to fix that problem. Ms. Rice proposed to insert some plantings around the edge of the pond or on the surface. The algae could then be physically removed.

Mr. Williams, the Borough Administrator who briefly joined the meeting, suggested to Ms. Rice email him an outline of what she would like to do concerning this project. He will review this outline with the appropriate Commission and see if any needed requests can be fulfilled. Mr. Williams noted that the Commission tries to work with Scouts to help them work out their different projects.

Council Member Mathiasen will send Ms. Rice the contact information for Chrmn. Van Wie and Mr. Williams. Ms. Rice could then email an outline of what she is proposing for this project. A decision can be made of whether this project would work for her and the Scouts. Some work has been done on this algae problem, but a lot more needs to be done. Council Member Mathiasen believed it would be a good project.

Ms. Rice agreed with Council Member Mathiasen's recommendations. She very much wanted to see improvements done on Kelley's Pond.

Chrmn. Van Wie thanked Ms. Rice for her presentation. She felt the Commission would be glad to collaborate with her on this project.

Mr. Williams then departed from the meeting.

Plant Sale

Dr. Clyde reported that the Green Team will be participating in the plant sale to be held from April 1st to April 21st. This event will be run through the Great Swamp Education Center. Dr. Clyde explained how the orders will be processed. The plant orders will be delivered on April 30th. Dr. Clyde reported a larger variety of plants will be on sale this year. She announced the dates of the 3 webinars that will be held regarding the plant sale.

Dr. Clyde reported that after meeting with Mrs. Van Wie and Mrs. Robinson, it was decided that the celebration of Earth Week will be launched starting on Friday, April 22nd, which is Earth Day. Dr. Clyde reviewed some of the events that are being planned for Earth Week. More work on the details of these events will be covered at next week's Green Team meeting.

Mrs. Robertson noted that the Borough Clean-up Day will focus on landscaping improvements to the grounds of the Stanley building.

Mrs. Robertson reported that the Tri-Borough Yard Sale will be held on April 30th. The Great Swamp Association will be the beneficiary of the application fees from the Tri-Borough Yard Sale.

Chrmn. Van Wie reported that the owner of Scoops Ice Cream parlor is in favor of participating in an Earth Day Week Sunday event, to dovetail with the chosen speaker. Hopefully the weather will be good that day.

Council Member Mathiasen brought up the idea of the Great Swamp Association providing some native landscaping plants at cost for the Stanley grounds. A serious effort should be made to plant the right landscaping which should be native, low-water maintenance, etc.

Dr. Clyde mentioned that Lydia Chambers from Madison may be able to help with suggested plantings. The Great Swamp Association had produced a number of publications last year giving information on the

kinds of plants. Dr. Clyde agreed to send Council Member Mathiasen and Janice Piccolo Ms. Chambers' email. Council Member Mathiasen pointed out that the whole area around the Stanley building will not be landscaped. There is a good area near the banquet hall area of the building where some creative landscaping could be done. Council Member Mathiasen and Chrmn. Van Wie discussed the possibility of doing a Go Fund Me page for plantings for the Stanley property.

Mrs. Robertson suggested people who will be ordering and picking up their plants at the Earth Day plant sale be given the opportunity to donate a plant(s) for the Stanley property. Dr. Clyde and Mrs. Robertsons discussed the logistics and timing of any donated plantings.

Make your town EV Friendly

Public EV charging infrastructure

Chrmn. Van Wie suggested these two topics be combined for discussion. She asked Mr. Treloar if he had anything to report in this area. Mr. Treloar will be keeping in touch with the Borough Administrator on the first topic. As for the second topic, Mr. Treloar pointed out that the State supersedes whatever the town does for EV chargers. However, he believed that the EV charging ordinance that the Commission has worked on should be fine. Mr. Treloar reminded Commissioners that the Zoning ordinances still needed to be amended to include electrical vehicle supply equipment as a permitted accessory use in a select or in all districts.

Mr. Treloar discussed a requirement that specifies that First Responders take a course, it could be taken online, instructing them on plug-in electric vehicles.

After further discussion, Council Member Mathiasen asked Mr. Treloar to send her the training instructions. Mr. Treloar agreed with her request, pointing out that the instructions are a good idea in this situation because plug-in vehicles tend to have unique issues sometimes. Mr. Treloar will be comparing the Commission's proposed EV ordinance to

the State's EV ordinance. Dr. Clyde suggested Chrmn. Van Wie, in her upcoming presentation to the Borough Council, mention what the State requires the Borough to do with regard to EV installations.

Council Member Mathiasen stated that she will make sure that the installation of the public EV charging station is included in the Borough Budget for 2023. She would like an estimate on the cost of installing such a charger at Borough Hall. Council Member Mathiasen asked that the estimate be emailed to both her and Karen Fornaro, the CFO of Chatham Borough.

Make your home solar-friendly Community-led solar initiatives

Chrmn. Van Wie noted that a definite meeting date will have to be arranged to meet with representatives from Madison to discuss a possible solar panel installation at the Madison-Chatham Sewage Treatment Plant. If that proposal falls through, Chrmn. Van Wie and Mrs. Robertson will look around at other locations where the panels could be installed.

Council Member Mathiasen suggested that a solar panel company that specializes in community solar installation be contacted. Chrmn. Van Wie and Mrs. Robertson could gain some knowledge from them, before meeting with the Madison representatives.

Chrmn. Van Wie noted that Westfield is currently working on community solar, so they can be the Commission's resource on this matter. She and Dr. Clyde will make a point of visiting the Sewage Treatment Plant to review the property, and see where solar installations may fit in.

Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach

Commissioners decided to table this item for the next EC meeting.

Council Member Mathiasen encouraged Commissioners to attend the February 14th Council meeting when Chrmn. Van Wie gives her presentation. Dr. Clyde recommended that Chrmn. Van email the members of the North Jersey Sustainable Municipal Alliance inviting them to her presentation by way of Zoom. Chrmn. Van Wie will also alert the Green Team at the high school.

Drew Forest Resolution

Dr. Clyde made a motion to support the Drew Forest resolution. Mr. Treloar seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye. The motion passed.

Dr. Clyde pointed out that the Environmental Commission's web page needs updating. At least one revision needed is correcting the names of the current EC Officers. Chrmn. Van Wie stated that she has contacted the person responsible for the Borough website. It will be done in due time.

At 9:13 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 8:00 p.m. It will be a virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary

