

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 13, 2022

8:00 p.m.

In Chrnm. Van Wie's absence, Vice Chrnm. Pat Soteropoulos 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. Ms. Soteropoulos read aloud the Statement of Adequate Notice. All legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Torri Van Wie, Chrnm.		X
Pat Soteropoulos, Vice Chrnm.	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	

Public Comment

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Minutes

Dr. Clyde made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2022 Environmental Commission meeting. Mrs. Doyle seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted "aye". The minutes of March 22, 2022 were approved.

Reports/Pending Business

Borough Council Liaison Report

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Council passed a resolution this past Monday enabling Mayor Kobylarz to sign an agreement with Madison to have the Borough of Madison accept Styrofoam from Chatham Borough. She explained that the Chatham Borough DPW will transport Chatham's Styrofoam once a month to Foam Pack. Chatham Borough residents need to take their Styrofoam to the Madison Borough recycling center when it is open. The Styrofoam will be inspected to make sure there are no food containers. Council Member Mathiasen stated that as soon as Madison Borough signs this agreement, a big publicity push will be made to Chatham Borough residents.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Borough Council will be holding an Open House meeting for Post Office Plaza on Monday, April 18th. Several different options will be presented for the plaza. Another Open House meeting will be held in the future. Council Member Mathiasen pointed out that a vote will have to be taken very soon on what approach should be taken for the plaza.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Borough Council approved the Budget this past Monday night. The Budget included \$1500 for a charging station to be installed at Borough Hall. Council Member Mathiasen believed there was left over Environmental Commission monies sitting in a fund somewhere. She will look into that. She believed that \$5,000 is being set aside for a future Natural Resources Inventory project.

Undergrounding Committee

Dr. Clyde reported that this Committee had met last night. Mayor Kobylarz, who attended this meeting, suggested that the committee work on some sort of ordinance to require all new construction to install their wiring underground. Dr. Clyde had told Mayor Kobylarz that she will bring up his suggestion at tonight's EC meeting to see if the Commission would support such an ordinance. Council Member Mathiasen believed it would be a good idea. This topic will be re-visited at the next Commission meeting.

Planning Board Liaison Report

Chrmn. Van Wie, the EC liaison to the Planning Board, was not present to give this report. Ms. Holler, the Recording Secretary for the Planning Board, noted that the Planning Board will be cancelling their April 20th meeting, even though it has not been officially announced yet. The Board will probably listen to an application in early May.

Council Member Mathiasen pointed out that a great deal of the Post Office development will have to be approved by both the Planning Board and Borough Council. A coordination has to be maintained between these two entities.

Council Member Mathiasen also noted that the Planning Board will have to approve the site plan and the basic design for whatever is submitted for River Road.

Energy Star group status updates

Council Member Mathiasen noted that the entire energy audit program has been completely over-hauled. An educational program for residents is being organized by the Bureau of Public Utilities, the regulators. This program will inform residents on how they could get an energy audit done for their homes. Council Member Mathiasen discussed the RFP for having a private company do energy audits in homes for a fee, and then helping with energy-saving installments to these homes. Council Member Mathiasen reported that this RFP is currently with the Borough's purchasing agent. Dr. Clyde suggested that this program should be brought up at the Environmental Commission table on Fishawack Day. That action would then count as an educational event in contributing points towards Sustainable Jersey.

Dr. Clyde reminded Commissioners that Fishawack Day is Saturday, June 11th. It won't be combined with the Sustainability Fair. Dr. Clyde felt that the date of the Sustainability Far doesn't have to be decided right away.

Make your town EV friendly

Dr. Clyde pointed out that Chatham Borough already has two charging stations in place – one at Kings Supermarket and one at 26 Main Street. She has heard that the EV charger at 26 Main

Street is a single-charger. Dr. Clyde noted that the EV charger is the type the Commission has been talking about. It has advertising and bright light fixtures. The advertisements displayed on the charger pay for its installation.

Vice Chrmn. Soteropoulos asked Council Member Mathiasen if the public chargers are on the right track to be installed.

Council Member Mathiasen answered that these installations need to be put on the front burner. The grant will pay for the cost of the installations. Mr. Williams will get the DPW and Borough Engineer to work together on these installations, hopefully after a decision is made on Post Office Plaza.

Susie's Topics

Mrs. Robertson suggested that the Commission, like Madison, publish a one page monthly newsletter.

Mrs. Doyle noted she had a done some newsletters in the past, being encouraged by Council Member Resto. She recalled there had been a question at that time on who to send the newsletter to, and how it would be distributed.

Regarding distributing the newsletter, Dr. Clyde brought up that Melanie Politi, every Thursday, puts out an email blast, on Thursday, announcing what is happening at the Farmers Market every Saturday.

On the Zoom screen, Mrs. Robertson put up her draft newsletter, nicely done. She offered to be the editor of the newsletter.

Council Member Mathiasen felt Ms. Politi would be okay with sending out the Commission's newsletter online, if someone is willing to do the actual contents. She felt the Commission had enough activities to keep its newsletter alive and current. Mrs. Doyle suggested the newsletter be published quarterly, limiting it to one page. That would be an easier commitment for the Commission, rather than sending it out on a monthly basis.

Mrs. Robertson agreed to serve as the editor of the newsletter.

Dr. Clyde suggested that area secondhand stores be mentioned in the newsletter. This would help with recycling, plus giving those stores needed business.

Yard Sale

Mrs. Robertson reported there is a final push to get residents to sign up for this sale. Council Member Mathiasen and Mrs. Robertson discussed the best possible websites to advertise for the yard sale.

Earth Month Update

Dr. Clyde noted that Alison Slater has worked very hard on this project. Dr. Clyde reported that she and Lisa Allocco have organized the Earth Month display at the Library of the Chathams. Eight vendors will be participating at the Earth Day event on Saturday, April 23rd. Scoops Ice

Cream parlor has created a special ice cream flavor in honor of Mother Earth. Dr. Clyde discussed other merchants who will be participating in this event.

On another matter, Dr. Clyde asked Council Member Mathiasen if the installation of solar panels will be happening at the Joint Sewage Plant. Council Member Mathiasen clarified that an assessment will be done on whether the location of such an installation would make sense.

Dr. Clyde noted that the Borough owns the train station parking lots on either side of the station house. She felt these lots would be a perfect place to install solar panels over the parking spaces. The panels would keep the summer heat off of the commuters' cars and keep the winter snow off as well. Perhaps this arrangement could be looked at for next year's Borough Budget.

Council Member Mathiasen pointed out that solar panels could be installed over a shade structure to be installed over the municipal swimming pool. Currently there is not much shade for members at the pool. Council Member Mathiasen felt that solar panels at the train station parking may be a controversial proposal.

On another matter, Dr. Clyde reported that the State has recently banned plastic bags. Perhaps Mrs. Robertson could report that in the Commission's newsletter. Council Member Mathiasen pointed out that there will be a lot of unhappy people who still want paper bags when they go shopping, even if they have to pay for them. Dr. Clyde suggested the Commission produce some recyclable grocery bags advertising some of their accomplishments. These bags could be given out as freebies on Fishawack Day. Dr. Clyde felt these bags would rise the profile of the Environmental Commission.

Dr. Clyde asked if any Commissioners would be available to staff the Earth Day table on April 23rd. Yana Doyle and Council Member Mathiasen volunteered to fill a time slot.

Commissioners discussed when it would be possible to meet in-person again, instead of by Zoom.

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

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 8 p.m. It will be a Zoom meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Minutes Secretary

cc: Mayor Kobylarz
Chatham Twp. Environmental Commission

