

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 8, 2023

7:30 p.m.

Chrmn. Susan Robertson called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. in Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building. Mrs. Robertson read aloud the Statement of Adequate Notice. All legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Susan Robertson, Chrmn.	X	
Pat Soteropoulos, Vice Chrmn.	X	
Rozella Clyde	X	
Yana Doyle		X
Joseph Treloar	X	
Allison Slater	X	
Nicholas Eck	X	
James Cashel	X	
Lisa Allocco	X	
Council Member Karen Koronkiewicz	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Public Comments

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Allocco made a motion to approve the EC minutes for January 11, 2023 as amended. Ms. Soteropoulos seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The minutes of January 11, 2023 were approved as amended.

Borough Council Liaison Report – Council Member Koronkiewicz

Council Member Koronkiewicz had nothing new to report on the garbage/recycling contracts. The Post Office Plaza law suits are over with. No appeals have been made.

Commissioners briefly discussed how much money they have in their budget. A request for \$10,000 has been made to Karen Fornaro, the Borough CFO, for funds to help with the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI).

Planning Board Report – Chrmn. Robertson

Chrmn. Robertson reported that the Board had recently held their Annual Reorganization meeting. In the near future, the Board will be hearing an application for a proposed minor subdivision on North Passaic Avenue. Chrmn. Robertson felt this application will probably involve more than one Planning Board meeting. She will keep Commissioners informed of what transpires with this application.

Land Use Board Review – Mr. Cashel, Chrmn. Robertson

Chrmn. Robertson reported on the meeting that she and Mr. Cashel had attended with Borough Officials and others, including the Planning Bd., Zoning Bd. and HPC regarding this Review. She explained that this topic concerns having the EC being inserted earlier in the Borough's review of land use applications. The applications will eventually be moved from Madison to Chatham Borough. A new process is proposed to make the system electronic and to remove the paper copies of all the plans, and associated documents and the EC, STC, HPC, could review them early in the process. Chrmn. Robertson noted that the EC has been asked to provide their Commission's Environmental Check-list. A "do not plant" list should also be included. Chrmn. Robertson and Mr. Cashel reported that they had not received any push-back from the Borough Officials on the new proposals.

Related to this, Chrmn. Robertson discussed how Council Member Mathiasen is trying to update the current land use processes to both

speed things up, as well as to save money and to provide a better review for both the Borough and the applicant.

Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) - Mr. Cashel, Mrs. Doyle, Chrmn. Robertson

Mr. Cashel explained that the EC will try and write a whole new document, reusing some of the original document. Plans from other communities are being looked at, particularly Madison. West Deptford NJ did a good job on their Inventory. Mr. Cashel distributed Sustainable Jersey material and noted the EC should look into what outside assistance they can obtain based on whatever grant or budget money the EC has. Chrmn. Robertson noted that Mr. Cashel will be the point person in getting our EC's Inventory organized. Mrs. Doyle will work on outreach. Chrmn. Robertson will be researching ways to fund this project. She pointed out that one of the requirements in applying for a grant is the EC must have a community outreach project. The EC has to listen to input from community residents. Diverse voices should be heard from and included in the final draft.

Chrmn. Robertson reported that the EC will need a resolution from the Borough Council stating that the EC is kicking this project off. It would help if the EC could mention that they have secured funds/grant money for this project. Chrmn. Robertson discussed the documentation that she and Janice Piccolo and others have been working on towards getting a grant. Sustainable Jersey are administering a grant from PSE & G Foundation. Mrs. Piccolo has received the template and video which explains what info would be needed for the application. Chrmn. Robertson noted that this application needs to be submitted by 4 p.m. on Friday.

Chrmn. Robertson stated that the Resolution, approving the grant application from the Borough Council, has to be done by February 17th. She pointed that even if the EC doesn't secure this grant, she felt the outreach work should still be done. Dr. Clyde pointed out that the ERI's rough draft should be done by February 2024 to be included in the

Borough's preliminary application to Sustainable Jersey. Ms. Soteropoulos suggested Dr. Clyde find out what info is definitely needed for this submission. Dr. Clyde will report back on this situation.

Public EV Chargers – Mr. Treloar

Mr. Treloar reported that he had spoken with Steve Williams, the Borough Administrator. There was some confusion about the figures. Mr. Williams will speak with Janice Piccolo. Something happened to the grant money during the pandemic time. Chrmn. Robertson stated that she had spoken with Mrs. Piccolo on this matter today. Mrs. Piccolo believed the grants would be re-imbursable. Mr. Treloar will confirm this with Mr. Williams.

Mr. Treloar felt at this point in the process, two parking spots should be designated and locate them by the electric supply box to avoid running lines under the dirt. Chrmn. Robertson asked Mr. Treloar to read her email, which had suggestions. Commissioners recommended that Mr. Treloar find out how much money is available for the charge box, then show Mr. Williams where the best location for installation would be. Dr. Clyde confirmed with Mr. Treloar and Chrmn. Robertson that the first priority would be to install the EV chargers for the public, and then one for the Police Department.

Sustainable Jersey Certification/Green Team Report

Dr. Clyde noted that the SJ Certification work is really a Green Team effort. She reported that Shannon McCarty, in Community Services, has now mastered the necessary template for the certification. Chatham needs 350 points for Silver Certification. Chatham Borough will try and earn the Gold Star Certification for Energy. Dr. Clyde reported that Madison Borough does their SJ Certification every year. Chatham Borough does it every 3 years.

Dr. Clyde noted that Chatham Borough's SJ application has to be submitted by February 2024. All of our town's environmental activities in the months starting in August 2022 will count towards the needed

points. The Green Team will take on the responsibility of assigning the people who will gather the necessary information. Dr. Clyde noted that Chatham has to hold 3 new innovative community-wide events. Allison Slater's program "How Green Are You?" will be included as one of those events. Dr. Clyde has asked Mayor Kobylarz to help with the recruitment of additional Green Team members. Mayor Kobylarz has agreed to ask for new recruits to the Green Team. Chrmn. Robertson had received some possible volunteers from the EC Facebook recently. She pointed out that it was a good idea to not overwhelm new volunteers with heavy-duty assignments. It's important to find out what areas these people are really interested in and will be good at. Dr. Clyde stated that Shannon will be sending independent worksheets to these volunteers to fill out. Vice Chrmn. Soteropoulos felt that specific guidelines should be given for these volunteer projects. Maybe an estimate of time should be given for each project.

GSWA Native Plant Sale – Dr. Clyde

Dr. Clyde reported that the sale will become more expanded now, with more municipalities involved. She explained how the plant orders are sent and processed out of state, packaged and shipped back to programs like the GSWA Plant Sale. In Mendham, the plants are sorted into individual towns' allocations. EC Commissioners worked out a schedule of picking up the plants, caring for them until the sale, and transporting them the day of the sale. Mr. Eck and Ms. Soteropoulos will head up this and distribute on May 6th at the train station parking lot.

Chatham Borough Home Energy Insight Program – Mrs. Allocco

Chrmn. Robertson reported to Mrs. Allocco that Mayor Kobylarz will be sending a letter to all residents, promoting this initiative. The postage will be paid by Ciel Power. She will follow up with Mrs. Allocco about this matter. The Home Energy Event in Madison will be held on 4/20/2023.

Social Media for the EC

Ms. Soteropoulos stated that she is looking into ways for the EC to use the Social Media more effectively. She will talk with the Commissioners who have been in charge of the Twitter and the Instagram for the EC. Mr. Eck asked to be kept in the loop about this matter, since he serves on the Borough's Communication & Technology Committee. Chrmn. Robertson and other Commissioners felt the EC website should be re-vamped. Chrmn. Robertson has a meeting on 2/28 with Melanie Politi to discuss this idea.

Earth Day 2023 – Chrmn. Robertson

Chrmn. Robertson reviewed the 3 events that will be held in observance of Earth Day. EV Expo in Madison will be held on 4/19/23. The Home Energy Even in Madison will be held on 4/2-/2023. A mini-Green Fair will be held in Chatham on 4/22/2023. These events will be tying together with Allison Slater's "How Green are You" program.

Tri-Town Yard Sale – Chrmn. Robertson

Chrmn. Robertson reported that the Yard Sale is scheduled for April 29, 2023 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Garden Park & Memorial Park (Library) Native gardens – Chrmn. Robertson, Mr. Treloar

Mr. Treloar is looking forward to working with Caitlin Boyle on this project. Currently they are working on the plant lists.

Joint Sewage Treatment Plant Tour

Dr. Clyde noted that the tour will be held on Friday, February 24th at 1 p.m. All Commissioners are invited to join her and Chrmn. Robertson to tour the Plant. Chrmn. Robertson pointed out that the main purpose for this visit is for her and Dr. Clyde to see where the proposed solar panels could be installed.

Bear Aware Talk

Chrmn. Robertson reminded Commissioners that this talk will be held tomorrow night, 7 p.m., downstairs at the Library of the Chathams. The

following day, please help remove any posters for this event from local store windows. This event has been widely advertised.

At 8:41 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler, Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Thaddeus Kobylarz
Chatham Twp. Environmental Commission