

## CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 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, in the 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	
Joseph Treloar	X	
Yana Doyle	X	
Allison Slater	X	
Nicholas Eck	X	
James Cashel	X	
Lisa Allocco		X
Council Member Karen Koronkiewicz	X – present by conference call	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Also in attendance:

Bill Heap, an interested resident

Chrmn. Robertson noted that Allison Slater was sworn in for a new term on the EC Commission before the beginning of tonight's meeting.

### Public Comment

There was none.

### Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 8, 2023 meeting were approved as submitted.

### Resolutions

There were none.

## Reports/Pending Business

### Earth Day

Chrmn. Robertson noted, later in the meeting, Ms. Slater will bring the Commission up to speed on the scheduled events.

### Ivy Solar Project – Chrmn. Robertson, Council Member Koronkiewicz

Chrmn. Robertson reported that there had been a 5 page environmental checklist for this River Road development. The developer was very amenable to complying with many of the requests. Chrmn. Robertson noted that she and Council Member Koronkiewicz had attended a meeting recently with the developer to discuss the solar panel part of the project. She believed their landscaping plan is excellent. The proposed plantings seem to be native to Morris County. Chrmn. Robertson will be reporting back to the Commission on the solar paneling situation. The roof has already been installed. She gave Commissioners the website for the Ivy development.

### Planning Board Report – Chrmn. Robertson

Chrmn. Robertson reported that the Planning Board has not been meeting for a while. The Board will be hearing a subdivision application proposed for a property on North Passaic Avenue.

### Bear Aware presentation – Chrmn. Robertson

Chrmn. Robertson reported it was a well-attended event at the Library. It will be included in our upcoming submission to Sustainable Jersey.

### Earth Day Events Madison/Chatham Twp. – Ms. Slater, Mrs. Allocco, Chrmn. Robertson

Ms. Slater reported that she has been working with members of the Madison EC. Five high school students will be helping with a social campaign for Earth Day to generate more awareness in a fun way. A logo has been created for this event. Also, a hash-tag – Take One Step. Different posts could then be given suggesting the green steps people could take. Students will be encouraged to take photos or video clips of environmental-friendly measures taken around town. Chrmn. Robertson suggested photos/clips could be taken of some of the Council Members taking on some environmental-friendly activities. Ms. Slater said one of the students suggested a separate website be created for this project.

Ms., Soteropoulos indicated yes, the students could create their own website to post the content for Earth Month. The students can submit the postings, but will

not be allowed to actually post them live to the Borough's social media. The EC does that. Ms. Soteropoulos offered to work with the students on these activities.

Ms. Slater suggested this Fair in April be called "Take One Step". It will be launched on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Doyle offered to help with the technical details, maybe creating a QR code. Ms. Slater suggested making decals for this event.

Ms. Soteropoulos and Mrs. Doyle recommended that Council Members should be notified ahead of time that they may be approached by these students wanting to photograph them doing green activities. Council Member Koronkiewicz said she will give her fellow Council Members a heads-up on this project. She pointed out the email addresses for each Council Member is listed on the Borough website.

Regarding the Green Fair scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ms. Slater felt the response from vendors could be stronger.

Mrs. Robertson brought up the three future garbage containers Borough residents will be required to use eventually. Three sample garbage containers are on display on the Middle Level in Borough Hall. She suggested the EC put up posters to help residents determine how much garbage they actually throw out each week. Borough residents could figure how much left-over food could be composted, thus reducing the volume of their garbage. Their unwanted Styrofoam could be disposed of in Madison at the DPW and this could also reduce their garbage amount.

Ms. Slater suggested the EC have tables set up to give information and encouragement to residents to become involved in composting, re-using and consigning certain items.

Also at the Green Fair, Chrmn. Robertson suggested residents could come to the Fair and discuss the new garbage contract and take a look at the new garbage containers. It would be helpful to then make "green" suggestions on how they could reduce their garbage and maybe consider a smaller garbage container.

Ms. Slater discussed the entertainment for the Green Fair. The School of Rock has been approached to perform. Perhaps one of the musical groups from the school could perform some soft background music.

Ms. Slater reviewed the time slots available for Commissioners to staff the displays. Mrs. Doyle offered to work on the event's poster.

Dr. Clyde believed that the Habitat for Humanity would be able to anchor a lot of recyclables. Also, someone will be on hand to sign up those interested in Green House Solar.

Ms. Slater reviewed the remaining green events scheduled in April in the Chatham/Madison area.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Slater for all her hard work.

#### GSWA Native Plant Sale – Dr. Clyde

Dr. Clyde will send info about a webinar to be held April 3<sup>rd</sup>. This webinar will start the plant sale. The plant sale will finish on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Clyde reported that she has now received all the necessary permits for the plant sale. Ms. Slater will include the date of the plant sale on the Earth Day poster. Mr. Eck and his truck will help with the plant pick-up.

#### Joint Meeting – Solar Panel project – Dr. Clyde, Chrmn. Robertson

Chrmn. Robertson reported that she, Council Member Koronkiewicz, and Dr. Clyde took a tour of the sewage treatment plant led by Chris Manak, the Superintendent of the Madison-Chatham Joint Meeting. They learned that disposable wipes are the number one items that are clogging up the sewage system. These wipes are not flushable as they claim. Also, the use of phosphates is proving very costly for the sewage treatment plant. Residents should think about using non-phosphates when doing their laundry.

Chrmn. Robertson reported they had also looked at the future location for the solar paneling at the plant. The solar panels will not be purchased. They will be leased. Chrmn. Robertson will be meeting with Jim Burnet from Madison, Steve Williams, Council Member Mathiasen, and others on April 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss this installation and the costs.

#### Environmental Resources Inventory (ERI) – Mr. Cashel, Mrs. Doyle, Chrmn. Robertson

Mr. Cashel reported that they have found two potential consultants to help with the ERI. He discussed the credentials of the two candidates. Mr. Cashel explained that the existing ERI has been located and reformatted into a working draft “word document”. A lot depends on how much money is available to spend on this project and which consultant is chosen.

Dr. Clyde asked if Mrs. Piccolo had submitted the grant application for this project. If so, has she heard anything back?

Chrmn. Robertson answered that the submission met the deadline. The costs came out to about \$34,000. Kendra Lelie, the Borough Planner, advised that the cost of a consultant would probably range from \$22,000 to \$30,000. Ms. Lelie told Chrmn. Robertson and Mr. Cashel that her background is as a landscape architect. She has worked on ERIs before and is available to help if requested to do so.

Chrmn. Robertson reported that the grant application contained Ms. Lelie's estimate, \$1,000 for professional photography, and \$1,400 or \$1,500 for the printing and binding of the ERI. The goal is to make 24 copies of the ERI. If the grant is awarded by the PSE & G Foundation, \$10,000 or \$20,000 would be offered. Chrmn. Robertson said the EC should be hearing news about the grant on the first week of April.

Dr. Clyde asked if the EC had to do an RFP process.

Mr. Cashel answered that will be determined by the magnitude of the expense.

Mrs. Doyle will be working on outreach and a logo.

#### Sustainable Jersey Certification/Green Team Report – Dr. Clyde

Dr. Clyde noted that nothing will be done on Sustainable Jersey until after April.

#### Borough Council Liaison Report – Council Member Koronkiewicz

A presentation of the new garbage program will be on May 9<sup>th</sup>. At this Monday's Borough Council Meeting, the DPW will be reporting to the Council about a program to replace all lead and galvanized water service lines. This is a State requirement. Residents will be asked to identify what type of service line goes into their home. A letter will be mailed out to residents next week about this request. The DPW will help anyone who needs assistance.

At this Monday's Council meeting, the developer of the River Road development project will give a presentation about this project and will answer any questions. The developer has implemented many environmental improvements.

#### Public EV Chargers – Mr. Treloar

Council Member Koronkiewicz explained that there were two avenues that could be pursued for funding the EV chargers. Either the Borough can seek additional

funding or use the money from the River Road project. Mr. Treloar said he will show the contractors where to install the chargers. He will receive the quote for this work so the EC will know how much to set aside in their budget.

After further discussion, Chrmn. Robertson and Mr. Treloar asked Council Member Koronkiewicz if it would be too late for the EC to put a placeholder in the Budget for this item. Council Member Koronkiewicz will send an email to Mrs. Fornaro, the CFO. Chrmn. Robertson and Mr. Treloar agreed to ask for \$18,000. Mr. Treloar will work on what the actual number will be. He will give an update at next month's meeting. The Borough decided on using Charge-Point.

#### EC Spiritwear

Chrmn. Robertson reported she had consulted with Mrs. Piccolo, who suggested baseball caps instead of T-shirts, because of the cost. Commissioners agreed that would be a good idea.

On other matters, Chrmn. Robertson noted that the Fishawack Festival is June 10<sup>th</sup>. She suggested the poster educate the public on the new garbage containers. Also, ways to reduce waste could be listed. The poster should be up on display as soon as possible.

Ms. Slater suggested the EC have a presence at the Farmer's Market. The poster could be put on display.

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

Chrmn. Robertson discussed the resolution that the Borough Council will be voting on this Monday night accepting donations in kind from the Dirt Divas and the Town & Country Garden Club. Mr. Treloar felt that the best time to plant would be in the fall.

Before adjourning, the Commissioners asked Mr. Heap if he had any questions or comments.

Mr. Heap appreciated all the hard work the EC did; however, he had concerns about Commissions telling people what they should do.

Chrmn. Robertson pointed out that the EC's goal is to educate and advise people on environmental matters. They can recommend green practices/options for residents and businesses to follow. The EC is an advisory body.

At 8:45 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 7:30 p.m., in Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary