

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 11, 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, and 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	
Yana Doyle		X
Joseph Treloar	X	
Allison Slater	X	
Nicholas Eck	X	
James Cashel	X	
Lisa Allocco		X
Council Member Koronkiewicz	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Also present:

Val Clark, an interested resident

John von Knorring, a resident from Green Village

Public Comment

Ms. Clark felt there was some cross-over between the Environmental Commission and the Shade Tree Commission. She showed a photo of a large tree that had been taken down yesterday morning. The tree was situated between Liberty Drug and the Exxon Station.

Council Member Koronkiewicz stated this would be a Shade Tree Commission matter.

Ms. Clark noted that Liberty Drug Store had obtained the permit to take down the tree. She believed technically the tree stood on the Exxon property. The tree removal permit was issued last week.

Chrmn. Robertson asked to take a closer look at Ms. Clark's photo of the tree.

Ms. Clark believed the tree had been inspected by the town. It was then taken down because of Exxon's vacuum pump situation.

Council Member Koronkiewicz reiterated that this was not an Environmental Commission matter. It should go before the Shade Tree Commission.

Concerning another matter, Ms. Clark showed a photo of ivy being planted on the BNE building “The Ivy” under construction on River Road. She asked if someone plants an invasive plant on their property, can the Environmental Commission tell them not to.

Chrmn. Robertson answered that she had reviewed everything on “The Ivy” plant list, ahead of plantation. An environmental consultant had been hired for the BNE project and the landscape plan had been reviewed and approved by the Environmental Commission. The plant list provided contained predominantly plants native to Morris County or those which were drought resistant. It was a good list. The installed plantings will be checked. Ms. Clark was thanked for bringing this to the Commission’s attention.

On another topic, Ms. Clark brought up a flyer that had been on display at the EC table at last year’s Sustainability Fair. She read aloud a comment about air quality from an organization called the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Chrmn. Robertson said that the Commissioner who had prepared that flyer was not present tonight to discuss this. However, Chrmn. Robertson informed Ms. Clark that the Commission will be re-vamping their website in the near future and all materials on it will be reviewed.

Ms. Clark gave Chrmn. Robertson some recycling information from Stevenage, England as an example of how other parts of the world approach recycling. Stevenage is a large town in England with a population of 90,000 people. The relevance of its programs to Chatham Borough is not obvious, but was of interest to Chrmn. Robertson who was born there.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Vice Chrmn. Soteropoulos made a motion to approve the September 13, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Cashel seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The September 13, 2023 minutes were approved as submitted.

Borough Council Liaison Report – Council Member Koronkiewicz

Council Member Koronkiewicz had nothing new to report.

Borough Planning Board Report – Chrmn. Robertson

The Planning Board has not met since their September 6th meeting.

Environmental Resource Inventory – Mr. Cashel

Mr. Cashel reported that a contract has been established with the Land Conservancy to begin work on the inventory. There are sections that the Land Conservancy will not be doing. Mr. Cashel will be working on the italicized sections and then distribute them to the rest of the Commission for review. He will keep in touch with Barbara Heskins Davis, the consultant managing the Borough’s project on behalf of the Land Conservancy.

Chrmn. Robertson brought up the possibility of holding a meeting at the Stanley Center, in the coming year, to show the ERI to the public, listen to the public’s views and get comments on the inventory.

Sustainability Fair – rescheduled for October 14, 2023

Chrmn. Robertson pointed out the flyer for this year's Sustainability Fair stated unfortunately that the event will be held rain or shine. It should really be held during good weather. She and Janice Piccolo have discussed what course the Fair should take if the weather is bad on October 14th. The event had been postponed from another rainy Saturday, September 23rd.

Chrmn. Robertson was reluctant to move the Fair into Stanley Hall, since it is hard to entice people indoors for events like this. Also, displaying EVs on Fairmount Ave. for people to inspect, would be awkward and unsafe.

Chrmn. Robertson reported that she had sent an email to all the vendors and groups that have signed up to participate in the Fair, informing them that an official decision will be made tomorrow, Thurs., Oct. 12th, at 4 p.m., on whether to go ahead with the Fair, outdoors in the southbound railroad lot. Vice Chrmn. Soteropoulos pointed out that the car dealers will not come out with their vehicles in the rain. Other vendors, like the local food pantry, may not want to sit in the rain.

Related to the Green Fair, Ms. Slater reported that in March, the Chatham Chamber of Commerce would like to put on display a "green" home for residents to look at.

Chrmn. Robertson reviewed the staffing for the EC table for the Fair, if the weather cooperates this Saturday. A final decision on whether to go through with the Fair on Saturday will be made tomorrow at 4 p.m.

Sustainable Jersey Certification

For the newer Commissioners, Chrmn. Robertson explained the work the Borough has to undertake to obtain Sustainable Jersey's Silver Certification. It is a 3-year cycle. This year Shannon McCarty will be doing the uploading of documents and managing the process that is involved for the certification. In the past, Rozella Clyde had directed certification activities on behalf of the Green Team. A replacement is now needed to fill this job of being a liaison between Community Services and the EC.

Chrmn. Robertson noted that Shannon will be submitting a worksheet listing the assignments that need to be done.

Council Member Koronkiewicz said she will talk with Mrs. Piccolo tomorrow and hopefully schedule a work session. Mr. Eck indicated that he might be able to act as the liaison. Mrs. Robertson thanked him and said that she would also ask Ms. Allocco if she had time to help with this too.

Chrmn. Robertson and Commissioners discussed Dr. Clyde's retirement gathering. Chrmn. Robertson will check with Dr. Clyde on a convenient date to hold this event.

Save Drew Forest

Chrmn. Robertson announced that tomorrow evening from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. the Morris County Open Space Trust will hold a meeting at 10 Court Street. Morristown. Public comment is invited.

At 8:18 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary