

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

June 14, 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 Koronkiewicz	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Public Comment

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Allocco made a motion to approve the EC meeting minutes of May 10, 2023 as submitted. Chrmn. Robertson seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The minutes of May 10, 2023 were approved as submitted.

Reports/Pending Business

Borough Council Liaison Report – Council Member Koronkiewicz

Council Member Koronkiewicz gave an update on garbage concerns expressed by residents. When the new garbage collection takes effect, some residents asked what happens, at times, when they have an extra load of garbage to put out, for instance after a party. Council Member Koronkiewicz said there would be a provision in place for those situations. She also noted that some senior citizens are concerned about the heaviness of the trash bins when they have to haul them to the curbside. Council Member Koronkiewicz reported there will be a program in place where the trash collector will, for an extra charge, will go back and haul down the trash cans to the truck.

Chrmn. Robertson noted that she understands there will be a collection day for recycling old garbage bins before the new ones are delivered.

Council Member Koronkiewicz reported that in either August or September, a letter will go out to residents asking them to select the size garbage bin that they would like. The bins will be delivered in December. The residents will be given a chance to ask for a different size bin, if their original sized bin doesn't work for them.

Planning Board Liaison Report – Chrmn. Robertson

Chrmn. Robertson reported on the Board meeting held on June 7th. The Board had approved a resolution to deem Ordinance #23-07, a bond ordinance, consistent with the Master Plan. The Board also listened for close to three hours of testimony for Application #PB 23-001: Madeline Housing Partners, LLC, South Passaic Avenue & Bowers Lane, Preliminary & Final Site Plan (Post Office Plaza). The Board had suggested some additional details to the expert witnesses for consideration. The Board ultimately approved the application.

Sustainable Jersey Certification/Green Fair Report – Dr. Clyde

Dr. Clyde felt that establishing two separate tables worked very well at Fishawack. There was a good response to the raffle. There were 58 slips of papers in the jar. Eighteen of these slips were from people interested in the Green Team. Dr. Clyde delivered the door prize, a basket full of sustainable items, to Mr. Wrynn of Lum Avenue. He was delighted with the basket. Dr. Clyde noted that Janice Piccolo had given copies of the Borough's Walking Tours to be made available on the Green Team Table. These printed tours were well received by the public.

Chrmn. Robertson and Dr. Clyde discussed whether or not to hold the next Green Team meeting. Dr. Clyde felt there were plenty of work/projects for Green Team members to tackle for future meetings.

Wrap-up PSE & G Grant – Chrmn. Robertson

On other matters, Chrmn. Robertson reported that the Borough was not awarded the PSE & G grant for writing a new ERI. It will be written by the EC with consultant support from Borough funding.

Community Composting Pilot Project – USDA Grant – Chrmn. Robertson, Ms. Slater

Chrmn. Robertson reported that Ms. Slater and Janice Piccolo are working on this submission for a grant for community composting tonight. The submission is due tomorrow night at midnight. Chrmn. Robertson noted that she has made a commitment to the Borough Council that no Borough hours or Borough staff will be used for this project. If the grant is successful, it will be grant-funded. If the grant is not approved, the Borough will try and operate a compost pilot of its own.

Sustainability Fair & EV Expo – September 23, 2023

Chrmn. Robertson asked Commissioners if they should follow the same layout of displays as was done last year. It seemed to be successful. Chrmn. Robertson and Dr. Clyde agreed that EV cars could be put on display again. Should this event be expanded, however more work would be required. Chrmn. Robertson asked Commissioners if they should invited Chatham Twp., Madison and/or Summit to participate in the Fair. Dr. Clyde recommended asking the Chatham Township EC to participate again in the Fair.

Dr. Clyde recommended that the cars be displayed altogether like last year, not split up into different locations.

After further discussion, the Commission decided to follow the same format as last year's Sustainability Fair, perhaps expand it just a little more.

Chrmn. Robertson and Mr. Cashel discussed asking the public for their feedback on the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI). The public can give their suggestions on what resources to focus on. Dr. Clyde felt the Library would be a good outreach location to receive comments from the public. Perhaps a table could be set up at the Sustainability Fair for residents to write down their recommendations. The residents would be informed of any future meetings that would pertain to organizing this ERI. Something should be prepared for the residents' feedback by September 23rd.

At 8:23 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary