

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

December 12, 2018

8:00 p.m.

Chairwoman Kate Murphy called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:00 p.m. in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Borough Hall. Chrwmn. Murphy announced that all legal notices had been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Kate Murphy, Chwmn.	X	
John Tancredi	X	
Ben Lampert	X	
John Dey	X	
Patricia Soteropoulos	X	
Kevin Murphy		X
Torri Van Wie		X
Joseph Treloar		X
Kyle Muir	X	
Council Member Len Resto	X	
Liz Holler, Minutes Secretary		X – at a Zoning Bd. meeting

Also present:

Dr. Rozella Clyde, member of the Chatham Borough Green Team

Tony Torello, Director of Public Works, Chatham Borough

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the November 14, 2018 Commission meeting were approved as amended.

Reports/Pending Business

DEP report on the use of battery-powered leaf blowers – Mr. Torello

Mr. Torello reported that one Echo Drive backpack requires two large batteries that will give 30 minutes of activity. This battery pack blower is quiet and powerful. The turbo moves leaves 15 minutes at a time. Mr. Torello felt that an electric blower is helpful for small jobs, like blowing sawdust off tree trunks; however, it would not be good for heavy leaf-blowing jobs.

Organic Landscaping on Borough Property – Mr. Dey

Mr. Dey reported that at a recent Borough Council meeting it had been noted that RFPs for services have been received. NOFA contractors are not in the local area. Mike Kolenut from Lincoln Landscaping is on the list. Mr. Torello and Public Works will take care of the soil testing kits.

Mr. Torello noted that with only the Recreation fields being done, the price should not be too high.

Best practices meeting advised with the School District and Chatham Township.

Mr. Dey will ask Ms. Holler to stop by the Borough Administrator's Office and pick up the Organics Resolution and give it to the Borough Clerk, Robin Kline. The Commission would also like a copy of the resolution.

Public Comments

Dr. Clyde reported on the Madison Chatham Coalition contest against vaping, etc. The winners will have their work displayed on reusable shopping bags which will be given to local merchants to distribute.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Mr. Muir discussed the Post Office Plaza Redevelopment Study. Recently, River Road had been declared an area in need of redevelopment.

Borough Council

The Borough Council has passed a resolution to transfer money from unused accounts to recycling accounts - \$30,000. Too much plastic has been found in paper bundles. The standard went from 4% plastic to 2 ½%. Solid waste fees could go up. The Environmental Commission needs to educate the public. The recycling app needs to be advertised. Perhaps a municipal program could be organized to deal with this issue. It may be a good idea to ask Kings Supermarket again, and CVS, if they could be collection points for used plastic bags.

The Commission raised the idea of finding a company that would take away our plastic bags in Chatham Borough.

Green Team meeting notes

Dr. Clyde reported that plastic is now being used in paving materials. This plastic is from crunched up bottles. MCMUA might have the capability to grind the bottles and make this type of plastic available to municipalities.

Mr. Tancredi pointed out that paving materials have strict specifications that need to be considered.

Another subject discussed by the Green Team was the idea of burying power lines. This action would help save the town trees and may assist in Smart Grid Technology.

Facebook Page

Mr. Lampert reported that many comments were received regarding integrated pest management. Favorable comments were also received concerning Sustainable Jersey and Chatham High School.

Before adjourning, the Environmental Commission said thank you to Former Chairman John Tancredi and Commissioner John Dey for all their work. The Commission wished them well. They will be missed.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission meeting will on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, 8:00 p.m., Room 212, middle level, Chatham Borough Hall. This will be the Commission's Annual Reorganization Meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris
Chatham Township Environmental Commission