

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
January 10, 2018 8:00 p.m.

Chairwoman Kate Murphy called the 2018 Reorganization Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:00 p.m. in Room 212, middle level of Chatham Borough Hall. Chrwmn. Murphy announced that all legal notices had been posted for this meeting.

The roll call was taken:

Name	Present	Absent
Kate Murphy (Chair)	X	
John Tancredi	X	
Ben Lampert	X – arrived at 8:05 p.m.	
Kevin Murphy	X	
John S. Dey	X	
Steve Cheng		X
Pat Soteropoulos	X	
Councilman Len Resto	X	
Kyle Muir		X
Torri Wie	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Also present:  
Carrie Klein

Administration of the Oaths of Office

The following new Commissioners had been sworn in at the recent Borough Council Reorganization Meeting: Patricia Soteropoulos, Torri Van Wie, Kyle Muir. Later in the meeting, Commissioner Lampert would be sworn in.

Public Comment

Ms. Klein discussed plans for a survey of Madison businesses to see who is recycling, and who is not. She noted that some businesses may not be able to recycle. In those particular cases, other environmental measures and products could be undertaken. Ms. Klein asked how did Chatham Borough view this issue of their local businesses recycling.

Chrmn. Murphy noted that the local businesses don't recycle the same way as the residents. Residents put their recycling on the curb once a week.

Council Member Resto pointed out that many local businesses are good about recycling. Some of them use recycling bins. The Commission has talked to local businesses about not using plastic bags for their customers. Council Member Resto explained to Ms. Klein about the plastic bag collection recently held to obtain a Trex bench.

Council Member Resto questioned why weren't the local business included in the Borough's garbage and recycling programs.

Mr. Tancredi felt that including businesses in the Borough recycling program would not necessarily be a cost impact to the Borough. About garbage collection for local businesses, Mr. Tancredi believed the businesses must pay for their own garbage pick-up.

After further discussion, Council Member Resto said he would touch base with Mayor Harris to understand why the recycling program was set up the way it currently operates.

Commissioners told Ms. Klein about the Green Award they had presented to Twin Elephant Brewing Company on River Road. All the wood in their facility was recycled wood.

Mrs. Van Wie summarized the information she had on Chatham's commercial recycling from her Sustainable Jersey spreadsheet.

Mr. Tancredi suggested, as a first step, the Commission could do a survey of the local businesses who *are* doing recycling. The survey could help the Commission determine whether or not an impact would result if the Borough undertook recycling for businesses.

Ms. Soteropoulos noted that a friend of hers had recently visited the Chatham Dunkin' Donuts and was concerned about that there were no recycling bins for the large amount of garbage generated at that store.

#### Correspondence

There was none.

#### Reorganization Resolutions for 2018

The Commission unanimously approved the following resolutions:

Resolution #18-01: Resolution establishing the Commission's Annual Meeting Schedule for 2018

Resolution #18-02: Resolution designating the Official Newspaper for the Publication of Legal Notices for the Year 2018

Resolution #18-03: Resolution electing the Commission's Officers for 2018:

Chairperson: Kate Murphy

Vice Chairperson: Ben Lampert

Mr. Lampert was sworn in for a new term as a Regular Member of the Borough Environmental Commission by Ms. Holler, a notary public.

A motion was made/seconded to approve the December 13, 2017 meeting minutes.

## Reports/Pending Business

### Planning Board

Mrs. Van Wie reported on the minor subdivision at 14 Cherry Lane that was recently approved by the Board. Nothing structurally had been proposed. It's a readjustment of a lot line. The existing drainage and brook will not be changed. Mrs. Van Wie believed there were no environmental issues with this application. She noted that at the Board meeting scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup>, the future of the Post Office Plaza will be discussed again.

### Borough Council

Council Member Resto reported that the 2015 Recycling Percentage has just been received from the County. Chatham Borough is at 74.1%. Chatham Borough is Number One for recycling percentages for the sixth consecutive year in Morris County,

Council Member Resto also reported that the pastor of Chatham United Methodist Church phoned him recently. The church wants to donate all the plastic bags collected from the local churches to earn the Trex benches to donate to Chatham Borough.

### Plastic Bag Initiative

Council Member Resto reported that Kings has not responded to his inquiries. Reverend Marke had informed him that they are turning their plastic bags into the Stop & Shop in New Providence.

Mr. Lampert suggested, regarding plastic bags, the Commission now transition into the best business practices.

### Quiet Communities

Chrwmn. Murphy reported that she had participated this week in a telephone conference call with Julie Kolehouse-Diplas and Jamie Banks. Ms. Banks is involved in a national campaign against gas-powered blowers. These women would like to start a campaign in the Chatham area. Chrwmn. Murphy will keep Commissioners informed on what develops on this matter.

Council Member Resto felt it would be unrealistic to mandate people to cease using their gas-powered leaf blowers. An educational process concerning leaf-blowers could be done.

Chrwmn. Murphy noted that the Commission hopes to hold a meeting with lawn maintenance companies in February.

Mr. Tancredi suggested using Sustainable Grant money that the Commission had received a while ago, to hold an event with local lawn companies. Council Member Resto said he will check with Janice Piccolo to see if that money is still available.

Ms. Van Wie suggested having an electric blower on display at the Farmers Market for residents to look at.

Commissioners discussed the cost of electric blowers and the possibility of buying these types of blowers for the Chatham DPW. Council Member Resto will consult Borough Administrator

Williams to see if there is money available in the budget for such a purchase. If there is, Mr. Williams could look at what brands he felt would be suitable. The sales representatives could be invited to give demonstrations. Mr. Tancredi felt there was money available for these purchases.

A motion was made/seconded to spend the Sustainable Grant money on electric leaf-blowers for the Department of Public Works. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye.

#### Pilgrim Pipeline

Council Member Resto noted that the Pilgrim Pipeline activity is quiet right now. However, Pilgrim has recently modified their application to the New York State DEP. The Municipal Pipeline group will keep their law firm on retainer.

#### Promoting Home Energy Assessments

Council Member Resto informed the Commissioners about a presentation on home energy assessments at 12:30 this Sunday at the Presbyterian Church in Morristown.

Ms. Klein and Ms. Van Wie discussed Ciel Power, the home energy assessment company, hired by the Borough of Madison.

After further discussion, Chrwmm. Murphy suggested that the Commission contact Ciel Power and see if they are willing to do energy audits for Chatham Borough.

Commissioners discussed how to notify Borough residents about these energy audits.

Mr. Lampert suggested that the prices for these energy audit companies be compared at the gathering in Morristown on Sunday. Mrs. Van Wie thought that the architects would know which of their customers may be interested in such an audit.

#### Sustainable Jersey Gold Standard

Mrs. Van Wie and Council Member Resto felt there was not enough time to reach the gold standard this time around for Sustainable Jersey.

Ms. Soteropoulos asked Council Member Resto if he had asked Mayor Harris about the idea of having redevelopers could add elements for the Borough to reach this particular goal.

Council Member Resto reported that Mayor Harris had informed him that the Borough provides incentives to developers to earn Sustainable Jersey points.

Commissioners discussed the solar panels and windmills that have made progress for solar power.

#### Green Business Initiatives

Chrwmm. Murphy reported that she had wrote up something on this topic for the Borough website to encourage local businesses to recycle.

### Integrative Pest Control

Council Member Resto reported that he was still looking for the contract with True Green.

Ms. Soteropoulos summed up information she had found from a worldwide study on neonicotoids and honey.

Ms. Soteropoulos gave Council Member Resto some scientific papers that she had concerning pesticides.

### Facebook

Chwmn. Murphy noted that on the evening of January 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Chatham Library, the Township Commission and Borough will be co-host a talk entitled “Wildlife in the Community”. Chwmn. Murphy will put an announcement on the Commission’s Facebook page. She will also contact Ed Barmakian, Editor of Tap into Chatham, to announce this event.

### Boy Scouts

Mr. Tancredi reported that currently there are no Eagle Scout candidates looking for projects. However, this situation will probably change in the near future.

At 9:14 the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 8 p.m., Room 212, middle level, Chatham Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Minutes Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris