

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
 June 9, 2021 8:00 p.m.

Chairman Torri Van Wie called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:00 p.m. Commissioners were present at this virtual meeting by way of Zoom. Chrmn. Van Wie read aloud the Statement of Adequate Notice. All legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Torri Van Wie, Chrmn.	X	
Patricia Soteropoulos, Vice Chrmn.	X	
Benjamin Lampert	X	
Joseph Treloar	X	
Yana Doyle		X
Susie Robertson		X
Rozella Clyde	X	
Ernest Dorflinger	X	
Council Member Jocelyn Mathiasen	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Public Comment

There was none.

Reports/Pending Business

Planning Board Liaison Report

Chrmn. Van Wie reported on a recent application proposing 8 town homes to be constructed on Hillside Avenue in the vicinity of Woods Lane in the Borough and the Dixiedale development in Chatham Township. Residents expressed their unhappiness over this development. The application was approved; however, Mayor Kobylarz has called a subcommittee to look at assessing the zoning of certain areas in Chatham Borough. Chrmn. Van Wie will be serving on this subcommittee.

Commissioners discussed when exactly this zoning arrangement was put in place and how the Borough Master Plan had played a role. The Borough Master Plan, the River Road portion, was re-written in 2016. Council Member Mathiasen said she had raised the possibility to accelerate updating the entire Borough Master Plan. She has discussed this with Kendra Lelie, the Borough Planner. Dr. Clyde felt there should be much more input from the Environmental Commission in the Borough Master Plan.

Council Member Mathiasen believed that a Recreation Plan was needed for the Master Plan. She believed that the Master Plan should not be just a paperwork exercise for the state. Council

Member Mathiasen felt that the Master Plan should be re-written and express how residents would really like Chatham Borough to look like and what the priorities should be.

#### NJIS Alliance Group

Chrmn. Van Wie reported that this group will be meeting tomorrow night and will discuss Master Plan updates regarding climate resiliency. Dr. Clyde will send Chrmn. Van Wie a copy of the current Master Plan.

Related to the Master Plan, Dr. Clyde reported that the Borough's Natural Resource Inventory is being included in with Sustainable Jersey; however, it must be renewed. The Environmental Commission must work towards updating the Natural Resource Inventory to be included in the re-writing of the Master Plan.

On other matters, Chrmn. Van Wie understood that new ideas are being considered for Post Office Plaza. Topology is no longer involved in this project.

Council Member Mathiasen added that the Borough had made a commitment that they would not move forward with this project until a fresh public process, an in-person process, which has been delayed because of Covid. She pointed out that Post Office Plaza is a very important part of the Chatham community from an aesthetics standpoint.

#### Kelley's Pond

Council Member Mathiasen reported that pond became so gunked up with vegetation that no water could function. The Borough had obtained permits from the State to have goldfish deposited into the pond to eat the gunk. A benign approach will be taken to clean up the pond. Aerators be used. Signs will be installed around the pond informing the public that the pond is under treatment for its current condition.

Council Member Mathiasen noted that the phosphate-based lawn treatments that residents use produce a harmful run-off to the pond. A map could be created showing where this run-off comes from. Different levels of phosphate could be measured at different times of the year in Kelley's Pond. This could be an Eagle Scout Project.

Mr. Treloar asked what was the pond being treated with.

Chrmn. Van Wie answered that it was a type of aluminum, a suspended aluminum. She felt this would be the most harmless affect on the pond. No side affects will result.

#### Energy Aggregation

Chrmn. Van Wie reported that Vicky and Lisa will be giving a presentation soon to the Mayor and Council on energy aggregation. Chrmn. Van Wie suggested instead of using the word "aggregation" in this context, the term "Energy Co-op" be used. She reported that already there are 17 members in this Co-op. Morris Township and Millburn should be joining soon.

#### Natural Resources Inventory/Sustainable Jersey Update

Dr. Clyde summarized Margie Lowe's progress report on Sustainable Jersey. Ms. Lowe stated that Chatham Borough's silver certification has been fully uploaded to the Sustainable Jersey Portal as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Borough's application has been submitted for review. The Green Team's goal heading into the 2021 cycle was to submit our Sustainable Jersey application with at least 400 points. Currently there are thirty-seven actions for the 2021 cycle, combined with 9 unexpired actions from the 2018 Recertification. Our requested total point value is 565 points. There is a potential for an additional 10 bonus points that may be awarded at the discretion of the reviewers of Sustainable Jersey. This is all now in the review cycle.

Dr. Clyde, still quoting from Ms. Lowe's report, stated that Chatham Borough will know by mid-July which action is approved or which needs revising. Any revisions must be submitted by September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Clyde thanked everyone who worked so hard on the Sustainable Jersey Update; however, a special thank you should go to Margie Lowe for her structure and organization for this Sustainable Jersey project. Ms. Lowe kept everyone focused on what had to be done. Dr. Clyde also commended Owen Truppo, an intern, who skillfully took on the tasks of those Green Team members who were already overloaded with work.

Dr. Clyde noted that the Natural Resources Inventory must be updated next year. She pointed out that the Inventory done in 2012 was just a re-write of what had been submitted ten years. Dr. Clyde recommended that a re-vamp be done on the Natural Resources Inventory. She felt it should become an actual element in the Borough's Master Plan.

Dr. Clyde discussed the Creative Arts Council which was recently formed. Twelve representatives from the community serve on this Council, including three high school students. Intern Owen Truppo has created a Creative Arts inventory. The inventory is available in the Community Services office in Borough Hall. This inventory will need updating as time goes on.

Dr. Clyde noted that Madison Borough works toward their Sustainable Jersey on an annual basis. A representative from Madison will someday, in the future, discuss with the Green Team how to go about this goal.

At Dr. Clyde's suggestion, Commissioners suggested some way to recognize Margie Lowe and Owen Truppo on their outstanding work for Sustainable Jersey. Chrmn. Van Wie said that she had emailed Council Member Mathiasen about this request.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that Borough Administrator Williams had suggested waiting until a response had been received from Sustainable Jersey concerning the application.

Chrmn. Van Wie thanked Dr. Clyde for all of her hard work on Sustainable Jersey. She and Dr. Clyde discussed ways to recruit additional volunteers to help with Sustainable Jersey work in the coming years.

Dr. Clyde discussed a new award from Sustainable Jersey called the Water Gold Star. She felt Chatham Borough could easily attain that standard in the future.

### Styrofoam Recycling

Council Member Mathiasen noted that local residents could drop off their used Styrofoam at Foam Pack so long as it never touched food and peanuts. Foam Pack will only accept Styrofoam from municipalities. Council Member Mathiasen suggested a good project for an intern or a scout project would be to figure out how the Borough could organize a good drop-off program for Styrofoam collection. A drop-off location would have to be established at the Borough's Recycling Center. Perhaps, once a month, a delivery of the collected Styrofoam could be made to Foam Pack. The intern or scout could contact Styrofoam and find out how municipalities work with them on this type of collection. Dr. Clyde asked for the contact information and will make the necessary inquiries.

### Climate Resolution

Chrmn. Van Wie reported that Madison Borough wants to customize their Climate Resolution. Madison wants more specificity with respect to their Master Plan. Chatham Borough may want to just move ahead with this important resolution. Dr. Clyde suggested that the Commission take a vote on asking the Borough Council to approve this resolution.

Dr. Clyde made a motion that the Environmental Commission advance the Climate resolution that Commissioner Dorflinger has worked on and recommend that the Borough Council approve this resolution. Chrmn. Van Wie seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye. The motion was approved.

Council Member Mathiasen stated that she will send this resolution to Mayor Kobylarz, Administrator Williams, and the Borough Clerk, and ask that it be added to an upcoming Borough Council agenda.

### Fishawack Festival 2021

Dr. Clyde reported that Fishawack will be held on the weekend of Sept. 18-19. It is called Retro-Fishawack because only the vendors who are already merchants in the Borough will be invited to participate. Out of town merchants can put up tents. Other organizations can set up tables. Dr. Clyde noted that the Commission can do its Sustainability Fair on Saturday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. She has asked Janice Piccolo to reserve a space and time for the Commission. The Green Team will take up the specifics of what should be done during the Sustainability Fair; however, the Environmental Commission has to give authority to the Green Team to carry this out.

Chrmn. Van Wie made a motion that the Environmental Commission empower the Green Team with the ability to orchestrate whatever necessary activities that need to be done for the Sustainability Fair in September. Ms. Soteropoulos seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The motion was approved.

### Sustainable Jersey Structure

Chrmn. Van Wie gave an update on the current EV charging station legislation. She noted that there is a bill on Governor Murphy's table to sign a state-wide EV charging legislation act. Chrmn. Van Wie and Commissioners discuss what other sustainable projects the Commission should pursue.

Council Member Mathiasen noted that the NJ Planning Association is planning a conference very soon. One of the sessions will be on electric vehicles. She will make sure that she attends that particular meeting and will obtain all of the attachments.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that there is currently a lot of buzz going on about the leaf blower issue, especially the noise problem. She suggested that the Commission take another look at this issue. Council Member Mathiasen also suggested the Commission obtain the environmental profile of each Borough Department. She would eventually like to receive recurring reports on the environmental impact of each Borough department. For instance, she is looking at the diesel lights being used on Lum Field. These lights are spitting out diesel fuel. Eventually, electrical lights will replace them. In the meantime, the amount of diesel being used for these lights should be quantified.

Chrmn. Van Wie noted that some of the vehicles being used by the Borough are up for renewal this year. She would like that to be stopped or at least postponed.

Council Member Mathiasen suggested Borough interns could be asked to do the research the environmental data for each Borough Department. Chrmn. Van Wie offered to approach the incoming President of the Key Club about this research project. Ms. Soteropoulos brought up that the National Honor Society requires candidates to earn a certain number of volunteer hours. Council Member Mathiasen said she could write up an outline of what research the young people will be pursuing, and what methodology they should be following. Chrmn. Van Wie suggested matching each project with the best volunteer. Council Member Mathiasen offered to supervise a volunteer trying to earn volunteer hours. She pointed out that Mrs. Piccolo at Borough Hall supervises the Borough interns, however she will sit in on any meetings with the interns.

Chrmn. Van Wie suggested the light situation on Lum Field can be re-visited at the next Commission meeting. Council Member Mathiasen said she could find info on the lighting currently being used, their model numbers, their hours of usage.

On other matters, Dr. Clyde discussed current NJ legislation for forestry management. The way this bill is written, clear cutting of state forests would be allowed. She felt Commissions should take a stand on this legislation and communicate with our state representatives. Chrmn. Van Wie offered to draft a letter that the Commission could send to the 3 legislators in our district.

#### Litter Control/dog excrement

Chrmn. Van Wie noted that Council Member Resto has noticed dog poop bags left behind in public places. Commissioners discussed the dog park situation at Shepard Kollock Park. Some dog owners have been known to leave filled poop bags behind in the Park, thinking that DPW will pick them up and dispose of them.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that more signage regarding bag disposal is in the works with the Borough. Currently, the Borough has no designated fine amounts for incorrect disposal of poop bags, therefore the police cannot write tickets for such an offense.

Council Member Mathiasen also brought up the issue of dog owners throwing the poop bags into residents' recycling bins. She will ask the Borough Administrator if stickers could be issued for the recycling bins prohibiting any poop bags with the threat of a \$100 fine.

CB Constant Contact email list

Chrmn. Van Wie noted that everyone's contact information must be obtained if the Commission were to move ahead with Energy Aggregation. She wasn't sure of the legal ramifications on this. This topic will be re-visited.

At 9:30 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary