

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 22, 2022 8:00 p.m.

Chrmn. Torri Van Wie called this Special 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. Mrs. Van Wie read aloud the Statement of Adequate Notice. All legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Torri Van Wie	X	
Pat Soteropoulos	X	
Rozella Clyde		X
Joseph Treloar	X	
Ben Lampert	X	
Yana Doyle		X
Susie Robertson	X	
Council Member Jocelyn Mathiasen	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary		X

Public Comment

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Minutes

Ms. Soteropoulos made a motion to approve the February 9, 2022 EC meeting minutes. Mrs. Robertson seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The February 9, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Reports/Pending Business

Borough Council Liaison Report

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the main issue right now with the Council is Post Office Plaza. An Open House meeting will be held a week from tomorrow to present different options for the Plaza. Residents are invited to weigh in on those options. The Open House meeting will be held at the Chatham Middle School and will be streamed. These options will not be released ahead of time, because they are complicated with cost issues, pros and cons, public space, etc. involved. A second town hall meeting will also be held.

Council Member Mathiasen noted that the Borough has a June deadline to basically tell the Affordable Housing Court how the Borough will meet just the Post Office portion of the town's affordable housing obligations.

Council Member Mathiasen also reported that the Borough Council is working on the new garbage bid. That bid will go out in April. She pointed out that the Borough Solid Waste bills have gone up 80% this year.

Borough officials have met again with Madison Borough to discuss Styrofoam and compost. Madison Borough, in the near future, will be taking Chatham Borough Styrofoam.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Borough Budget, the draft, is almost finished. She believed it worked out well this year. The line item for the EV charger has been included in the budget. Council Member Mathiasen noted that Police Chief Gibbons has asked for a hybrid police car. She felt that item request could be re-visited next year.

Planning Board Liaison Report

Chrmn. Van Wie noted that a short meeting was held on March 16, 2022. She was unable to attend.

Related to the Planning Board, Chrmn. Van Wie pointed out that the Environmental Commission and Green Team should ask Kendra Lelie, the Borough Planner, to see how the Natural Resources Inventory for the Borough's Master Plan could be re-done. Chrmn. Van Wie pointed out that the current Inventory does not mention anything about climate change and stormwater issues. Chrmn. Van Wie questioned whether a resolution had to be created and approved to state that the Commission will be reevaluating this Inventory. Perhaps a budgetary line would be needed for this reevaluation.

Council Member Mathiasen felt this Inventory work would be just a procedural thing. She would like to have an extended conversation with Kendra Lelie about the entire Master Plan. However, Council Member Mathiasen felt that the Post Office Plaza matter should take priority. After that matter is resolved, a look can be taken at the whole Master Plan. Council Member Mathiasen felt that important topics, for instance, Recreation, were missing from the current Master Plan. She noted the need to meet this goal in order to again earn the silver category for Sustainable Jersey.

Energy Star group status updates

From his research, Mr. Treloar had discovered that in regard to the Gold Star Energy award, much has been updated on the website since February. Mr. Treloar mentioned some of the changes he has reviewed. He and Council Member Mathiasen discussed the new standards for the necessary training for First Responders. Chrmn. Van Wie asked if the planning for this training could be done in two months. Mr. Treloar and Council Member Mathiasen agreed it could be done.

After further discussion, Chrmn. Van Wie suggested the necessary ordinances for the Energy Star be bundled together for the June meeting.

Mr. Treloar had a model that could be discussed at the next meeting.

On other matters, Chrmn Van Wie brought up the “Soul Smart” presentation given at the last NJSMA gathering. Free services are offered to the Commission on how to get the zoning correct for solar paneling and other helpful actions. Chrmn. Van Wie believed the Borough could easily go higher than the bronze category. She pointed out that Soul Smart has a template that could be used. Chrmn. Van Wie noted that the needed data is required to come from an elected official. She hoped Council Member Mathiasen would help with this.

In filling out the template, Chrmn. Van Wie discussed the biggest initiative for this year, is the effort to put solar paneling on the Madison-Chatham Sewage Plant. She noted that Administrator Steve Williams helped set up an appointment with the Madison Borough Administrator. Both of these men feel there is a possibility this solar installation has a good chance. However, the mayors of both towns still need to give the green light.

Mr. Treloar pointed out that there are nine requirements with regard to a solar installation at the Joint Sewage Plant. Battery back-up is a good idea, if the solar ever has to be shut down.

Chrmn. Van Wie stated she will organize a time-line for this solar installation project for the next meeting.

Chrmn. Van Wie asked Mr. Lampert to review the Gold standards to earn the Energy Star.

Chrmn. Van Wie briefly reviewed the events planned for Earth Day. The Green Team from Chatham High School will be very involved. Mrs. Robertson offered to do a press release for the newspaper about Earth Day activities.

The meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Minutes Secretary

cc: Mayor Thaddeus Kobylarz
Chatham Township Environmental Commission