

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
 May 11, 2022 8:00 p.m.

Chrmn. 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. 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, Chrmn.	X	
Pat Soteropoulos, Vice Chrmn.		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 Comments
 There were none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes
 The EC minutes of the April 13, 2022 meeting will be voted on at the next meeting.

Reports/Pending Business
Borough Council Liaison Report

Council Member Mathiasen gave an update on the Post Office Plaza situation. Fifteen affordable units will be constructed. The developer has a very good reputation. The Borough Council has to create a developer’s agreement and a redevelopment plan. These two entities must be in place by June 1st. The Borough Planning Board will listen to a Site Plan Review of this project.

Council Member Mathiasen noted that the developer is non-profit. She felt the Environmental Commission could encourage the developer to install high-energy appliances and good insulation for these units.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the RFP for Solid Waste is going out this week. The Borough will be receiving bids. She noted that the Borough Council is looking at two options: Continuing with the green garbage bags or an automated option with the “one-armed bandit” which dumps the garbage into the bin. A cost comparison will have to be done on these two options. The environmental implications of both options will be looked at.

Council Member Mathiasen pointed out that the big cost pressure for the Solid Waste is bulk. During the Covid pandemic time many resident de-cluttered their homes and put out massive piles of bulk on their curbs. Because of this heavy volume of bulk, the bulk collectors then greatly increased their prices. The Council will be looking at new restrictions for bulk.

Council Member Mathiasen reported that Madison is now accepting Styrofoam from Chatham Borough. In return, the Chatham Borough DPW will help transport the Styrofoam to FoamPak once a month.

Dr. Clyde asked if the Environmental Commissioners could look at the RFPs going out for solid waste and give their feedback.

Council Member Mathiasen answered that the RFP has been through a number of revisions. She and Council Member Treloar have been reviewing it. It has taken a year to reach this point with the RFP. She and Council Member Treloar made sure that this contract would be very flexible.

Dr. Clyde felt that points could be earned for Sustainable Jersey if the Commission could give input on RFPs of an environmental interest.

Council Member Mathiasen stated that Janice Piccolo has reached out to Sustainable Jersey on this matter. Talks were also held with the MUA. The Borough's contract with the MUA is coming up soon.

Chrmn. Van Wie asked if there could be a compost pick-up once a week in the Borough.

Council Member Mathiasen explained that would be a very expensive process for the Borough. She pointed out that the added cost of a compost pick-up to an already high annual solid waste bill would not be well received by residents. Also, another DPW truck would have to be acquired, even if a certain percentage of Borough residents opted for compost pick-up. Council Member Mathiasen also pointed out the manpower at DPW is not available for these types of pick-ups. Also, a full bid process would have to be undertaken which is very time-consuming.

Dr. Clyde suggested this proposed compost pick-up idea could be a goal for 2023. She pointed out that Java is currently doing compost pick-up for Madison and for individuals. The compost is taken to somewhere in Pennsylvania. Java will then return with top soil for their contracted customers.

Chrmn. Van Wie suggested bullet-points be published in the Borough's Constant Comment which would promote the services of Java.

Planning Board Liaison Report

Chrmn. Van Wie noted that the Planning Board has not met for quite a while. She noted that there will be a Special Meeting in the near future for the Board to look at the Borough's Master Plan. Chrmn. Van Wie asked Council Member Mathiasen if she had anything to add.

Council Member Mathiasen said she will reach out to Steve Williams, the Borough Administrator to find out what is happening with the Master Plan. She would seriously like to see an environmental element be included in the Master Plan. Council Member Mathiasen felt that the current Master Plan seems out of date. She would like to see an entirely new Master Plan developed with an environmental element, a recreational element, an open space element, and an affordable housing element included. Perhaps the Borough could use some of their federal Covid relief money towards a new Master Plan.

Dr. Clyde recommended that the Transportation Element should extend beyond the use of cars. Topics like bicycling, walking, and some sort of mass transportation should be included in that element.

Chrmn. Van Wie suggested the Commission could look at the best Master Plans done in New Jersey and cull the best practices and ideas from it. Perhaps a sub-committee could take on this project.

Charging Station(s) Update\

Chrmn. Van Wie reported that she is working on a grant to install a charging station at Chatham High School. She discovered that there is only a finite time-line to use these particular funds once they have been awarded. An investigation was made to find out whether the funds made would be honored, and what would be the final steps to take.

Council Member Mathiasen noted that Steve Williams has reached out to the DEP multiple times; however, has not received an answer. Mr. Williams thinks, because of Covid, perhaps an extension may be given. When Janice Piccolo returns next week to Borough, she can be asked to log into that particular software program to find out the details. Council Member Mathiasen noted that Mr. Williams had questions about a charger being installed at Borough Hall.

Chrmn. Van Wie reviewed her contact names at Charge Point. A site visit will be set up with one of the contacts for an installation at Borough Hall.

Chrmn. Van Wie reminded Commissioners that May 13th is the deadline for the fast-charging quote. This deadline is cutting it too close. She suggested this funding be pursued next year. If it is available in next year's cycle, the charger has to go on the agenda, or the Commission will have to pay for it themselves.

Gold Star Energy Updates

Chrmn. Van Wie reported that she has touched base with the Joint Sewage people about solar panels. Mr. Williams had confirmed with Chrmn. Van Wie that the Sewage Treatment people are discussing this matter and will reach out to the Commission at a later date. Chrmn. Van Wie believed there was only one building in that complex that could handle solar panels. There had been ventilation concerns for that particular installation.

Chrmn. Van Wie pointed out that the Sewage Treatment complex consists of five acres that could be available for this installation. She felt the Mayors of Chatham Borough and nearby

towns should be made aware of the serious and immediate need for solar panels. It should be done by the next 24 months.

Dr. Clyde discussed the idea of local houses of worship installing solar panels, not only on the actual church structures, but possibly in their parking lots as well. Dr. Clyde had discussed this idea with Father Bob at St. Patrick Church and he said he would look into it. She pointed out that Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on the Shunpike has had solar paneling for a number of years. Solar installations done at local houses of worship would help to educate residents on the advantages of solar installations.

Council Member Mathiasen stated she would love to do a webinar with a couple of the solar providers. She felt there would be an excellent response from the residents. Chrmn. Van Wie suggested a joint webinar be held with Madison on this topic. She and Dr. Clyde discussed the best time to hold this webinar. Mr. Treloar pointed out that maybe the solar providers would like to have a booth for Fishawack Day.

Chrmn. Van Wie suggested having a QR code available for people to scan and watch the webinar, hopefully before Fishawack. Dr. Clyde felt that the Chatham Library would be happy to co-sponsor this webinar and list it on their calendar. She suggested different entities who could be invited to participate in the webinar.

On other matters, Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Borough CFO has listed on the next Council Meeting agenda, the approval for the RFP for the company to come do home energy audits. The RFP will not cost any money; however, still needs Borough Council approval.

Madison's Environmental Checklist

Dr. Clyde noted that this checklist is available on the Madison Environmental Commission website. She felt that the Chatham Borough EC should have a checklist similar to that of Madison. She pointed out that the Commission should look at both residential and business structures when it comes to saving energy.

Council Member Mathiasen recommended that Chrmn. Van Wie email Chrmn. Susan Favate of the Planning Board and ask if this matter could be included as an agenda item for a future Planning Board meeting. The email should be cc'd to Mayor Kobylarz, Steve Williams, Fran Boardman, Council Member Truilo and herself.

EC Newsletter

Mrs. Robertson gave an update on the newsletter. An article will be included reporting on the success of the garage sales benefiting the Great Swamp Watershed Association. October 15th will be the next garage sale date. Mrs. Robertson noted that a date still has to be firmed up about the Sustainability Fair. She will be keeping in touch with Janice Piccolo on this matter. Commissioners decided the Fair will probably be done on Saturday, September 24th in conjunction with the Chatham Farmers Market. October 15th will be the date for the garage sales for the Great Swamp.

Mrs. Robertson will send a draft of the newsletter to Commissioners. Commissioners suggested some future “green” events that could be mentioned in the newsletter. Mrs. Robertson will be including the latest news on where Borough residents can take their Styrofoam, stressing the correct dates, times and location. She asked if any Commissioners had photos of the Earth Day events, to please send them to her for the newsletter.

Dr. Clyde reminded Commissioners that the Earth Day Display is still set up at the Chatham Library. It will be on display until May 20th. Please take time to visit it.

At 9:09 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Kobylarz
Chatham Township Environmental Commission