

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
July 13, 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	

Also present: Allison Slater, a future Commissioner

Public Comment

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Vice Chrmn. Soteropoulos made a motion to approve the June 8, 2022 EC minutes as amended. Dr. Clyde seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The June 8, 2022 minutes were approved as amended.

Chrmn. Van Wie made a motion to nominate Susie Robertson as the new Chairman of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission. Vice Chrmn. Soteropoulos seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye. Mrs. Robertson will serve as the Chairman of the Environmental Commission.

Mrs. Van Wie stated that she has learned so much from her time on the Borough Environmental Commission. She appreciated the comradery and positivity of the Commission. Mrs. Van Wie noted that she will be only a 10 minute drive away from Chatham Borough and will probably still be involved in environmental activities in the area.

Borough Council Liaison Report

Council Member Mathiasen was not present tonight. Chrmn. Van Wie noted that the Environmental Commission had set aside a modest amount of budget money for an EV charger to be installed at Borough Hall. She and Mrs. Robertson had met recently and taken a tour with

Steve from Charge Point and George from Bryant Electric, she and Mrs. Robertson were shocked at how much such an installation would cost. The numbers just to run the electric itself was exorbitant.

Chrmn. Van Wie brought up the option of installing ground-fault wiring which can be found on the internet. She urged Commissioners to consider this option.

Dr. Clyde suggested a \$600 charge-point charger be purchased and have it installed on the back of the building.

Chrmn. Van Wie noted that there is a significant amount of funds coming to Chatham Borough for Covid relief. It would make sense to earmark some of those funds to install the Level 3 chargers for the DPW to legitimately start electrifying their fleet to get some of their snowplows up and running and their heavy duty pick-up trucks. Chrmn. Van Wie reminded Commissioners that the grant money for the Level 3 charging station is good for only the next 12 months. If the Commission doesn't do the paperwork for the grant and secure those funds, the charger installation will have to be paid for out-of-pocket.

Regarding the DPW fleet, Chrmn. Van Wie pointed out that there are several 2003 pickup trucks which are on the docket for replacement in the DPW and in the Fire Department. Unless these vehicles die, they should be replaced by electric vehicles.

Chrmn. Van Wie stated that she hasn't heard anything new recently about Post Office Plaza. Commissioners briefly discussed some litigation brought on against the Borough by the original developer.

Dr. Clyde suggested contacting Council Member Rachel Ehrlich of Madison Borough to ask which developer Madison Borough is using for their affordable housing. Madison Borough is doing a net zero project. She asked Mr. Treloar to ask his wife, Council Member Irene Treloar to contact Council Member Ehrlich with this question. Chrmn. Van Wie gave Mr. Treloar the email for Council Member Ehrlich. She offered to put together an email on this matter for both Council Members Ehrlich and Irene Treloar and will copy Joe Treloar in on it. Chrmn. Van Wie and the Commission would like to see if the developer that Madison is using would be feasible for Chatham Borough.

Chrmn. Van Wie brought up the Borough's Recycling ordinance regarding local businesses that had been discussed at last month's meeting. Commissioners decided to table this agenda topic until Council Member Mathiasen was present.

Planning Board Liaison Report

Chrmn. Van Wie noted that the Planning Board hasn't met for a while. Earlier this week, Chrmn. Van Wie regarding the Madison Borough Checklist and the Natural Resources Inventory. These emails were sent to Chrmn. Susan Favate of the Planning Board. Kendra Lelie, the Board's Planner was copied in. Chrmn. Van Wie had suggested forming a subcommittee to evaluate Madison's Checklist, possibly make revisions, and then to consider adopting aspects of it. Chrmn. Van Wie felt it would make sense to have someone from the Environmental

Commission work on the checklist with a Planning Board member. The final product could be presented to the Environmental Commission for final review, before being reviewed by the Planning Board.

Chrmn. Van Wie brought up the Commission's review of the Borough Master Plan. She asked who had the jurisdiction to start the review now. Is there money in the budget for this review? Are there people in place to do this review? Chrmn. Van Wie noted that this is due in the year 2026. Chrmn. Van Wie pointed out that the current Master Plan is very antiquated and doesn't address anything about climate change. The Natural Resources Inventory needs to be updated. Is a consultant needed for this project? Does the Borough have the funds for this?

Dr. Clyde felt that Chrmn. Susan Favate would be the one to launch this project. The Master Plan comes from the Borough Planning Board. The Planning Board ultimately presents the Master Plan to the Mayor and Borough Council. Dr. Clyde noted that Council Member Mathiasen had indicated that there was some funding available in the Budget for that project. Dr. Clyde believed that the most recent Master Plan was written from a totally economic development perspective. There seemed to be no interest at all in climate change.

Dr. Clyde felt the most appropriate place to start in developing a better Master Plan is to urge Planning Board Chrmn. Susan Favate to form a subcommittee to look into organizing a new Master Plan. There should be representatives from the Environmental Commission on this subcommittee. She pointed out that Sustainable Jersey has names of consultants who will help with Master Plans. Dr. Clyde and Chrmn. Van Wie discussed the money that would be available in the EC budget for such a consultant. There is currently \$5,000 in the EC budget for this project. Chrmn. Van Wie asked Dr. Clyde to look into the consultants that Sustainable Jersey could recommend for Master Plan work.

Charging Station Update

Chrmn. Van Wie had nothing new to report on this. The State has been unresponsive in helping finance a charging station in the Borough. However, Chrmn. Van Wie suggested this topic be kept on the EC agenda in the future.

Gold Star in Energy: Status updates & strategy

Chrmn. Van Wie noted that due to recent actions taken by the Supreme Court, impacting the EPA, it doesn't feel as though the Federal Government will be giving us as much as we would like to make improvements in energy. Chrmn. Van Wie felt strongly that every town must take serious action with regard to energy conservation, or else in the next five years blackouts, brownouts, and unmanageable storms may result. Locations have to be found for solar installations in the Chathams.

Chrmn. Van Wie suggested a survey be sent to residents asking them what locations would be acceptable to them for solar panel installations. She felt that if 3 to 5 locations could be decided on for these installations. Dr. Clyde suggested that the solar paneling situation be raised as a question in Susie Robertson's EC newsletter. A survey regarding solar panel installation could be made available at the Sustainability Fair in the fall. Instead of inserting it in the newsletter, Mrs. Robertson and Chrmn. Van Wie suggested instead that the Borough Council be asked to put

out such a survey. Vice Chmn. Soteropoulos suggested that Council Member Mathiasen be approached about this survey. The survey could gauge about where the community stands on solar installations.

Sustainability Fair

Mrs. Robertson noted that the date for the Sustainability Fair is September 24th. She noted that Janice Piccolo now has an assistant, Shannon McCarty. While at a recent Farmer's Market Fair, Ms. McCarty and Mrs. Robertson worked on where to set up the different booths and displays at the railroad station parking lot, east-bound. She and Ms. McCarty had mapped things out. Two rows of display cars will be set up with a certain amount of feet in between them. Cones will be put in place to keep the vehicles away from the Farmers Market area. Mrs. Robertson will consult with Mr. Treloar in the future about keeping the different type vehicles separate. Ms. McCarty will present the Sustainability Fair parking lot plans to the Chatham Police and to Janice Piccolo for review.

Mrs. Robertson stated that during the summer, when making additional plans for the Sustainable Fair, she will touch base with the same contacts she worked with at last year's Fair. Allison Slater noted that she had a contact for a composting display. She mentioned a few more possible contacts and displays which may be available.

Mrs. Robertson noted that the Commission won't be holding a meeting in August. Their next meeting in September, is just a week away from the Sustainability Fair. She informed Commissioners that she will not be around the first two weeks of August. Dr. Clyde pointed out that there is a Green Team meeting scheduled for July 19th. A major portion of the meeting will be a discussion on what needs to be done for the Sustainability Fair. Dr. Clyde suggested that the Chatham Township hybrid police car be put on display for the Fair, if possible.

Dr. Clyde agreed with Ms. Slater's earlier suggestion that a catch-phrase or a theme could be decided on for the Fair.

Before adjourning, Mrs. Robertson noted that she is wrapping up the latest edition of the EC newsletter. She asked Commissioners to send her news of any "green" events taking place in the area. Mrs. Robertson briefly reported on a Save the Drew Forest meeting she had recently attended. She felt Chatham Borough should have its own mini-campaign to save the Drew Forest. Chatham people should be made aware that the Drew Forest impacts Chatham Borough's water supply. Perhaps this topic should be included on a future EC agenda in the fall.

Dr. Clyde suggested the advantages of electric leaf blowers should be discussed in the fall. Diesel fumes coming from local landscape workers is not healthy for the air. Chmn. Van Wie suggested that Lowe's or Home Depot could be approached for coupons for their electric-powered leaf equipment.

Commissioners thanked Torri Van Wie for all her dedicated hard work on the Commission and wished her much happiness in her new home.

At 9:10 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Minutes Clerk

cc: Mayor Kobylarz
Chatham Township Environmental Commission