

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

November 9, 2022

8:00 p.m.

Chrmn. Susan Robertson called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was held by way of Zoom. Mrs. Robertson read aloud the Statement of Adequate Notice. All legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Susan Robertson, Chrmn.	X	
Pat Soteropoulos	X	
Rozella Clyde	X	
Joseph Treloar	X	
Ben Lampert		X
Yana Doyle	X – arrived at 8:10 p.m.	
Allison Slater		X
Council Member Jocelyn Mathiasen	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Val Clark, an interested resident, was present by a Zoom dial-in.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Commissioners decided to review the minutes of the October 12, 2022 meeting at the next EC meeting.

Public Comment

Commissioners reached out to Val Clark; however, she was having technical difficulties with her Zoom.

Reports/Pending Business

Borough Council Liaison Report – Council Member Mathiasen

Council Member Mathiasen reported that there will be a discussion on the Borough's Solid Waste Program this coming Monday Night's Council Meeting. The Council Meeting will begin with an Executive Session to discuss the different options for the upcoming Solid Waste contract.

Council Member Mathiasen reviewed the different options being considered for the future of the Solid Waste Program. She would appreciate it if some EC members could attend this Council Meeting to discuss options for the Solid Waste contract.

Council Member Mathiasen noted that the Borough Council will not be making any decisions on bulk pick-up at their Monday night meeting. Not necessarily at Monday's meeting, but at future Council meetings, EC members are welcome to give their views on the Borough's bulk pick-up program.

Regarding Post Office Plaza, Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Council is moving ahead with plans for the 15 affordable units for Post Office Plaza. In December a public presentation will be held of the design options for the 15 units.

Chrmn. Robertson brought up the possibility of EC members meeting with the developer to see if some "green" measures could be taken with this project.

Council Member Mathiasen felt a good time for that topic would be when the plans officially go before the Planning Board. The developers also will have to go before the Borough Historic Preservation Commission since Post Office Plaza is in the Historic District. They will probably meet with the HPC in December.

Council Member Mathiasen stated that the developer will have to produce full packets of their project to the Planning Board. There is only one Planning Board meeting in January.

Council Member Mathiasen pointed out that these Borough Commissions and Planning Board will have to stay on track in reviewing these Post Office Plaza plans, or else the feasibility of these plans for 15 units will be undermined. The Borough does not want to be pressured into returning to a larger numbered project.

Moving on to another topic, Mr. Treloar asked about a pricing structure for garbage pick-up.

Council Member Mathiasen explained that there will be a framework of pricing at the Council Meeting. However, the Borough has a year to work on the actual pricing and how it will work. There will be actual solid waste containers, of different sizes, on display at the Borough Council meeting.

Mr. Treloar and Council Member Mathiasen discussed different cost structures for garbage pick-up.

Mrs. Doyle brought up the Borough's Bulk Program to Council Member Mathiasen. Council Member Mathiasen noted that no changes will be made on the Bulk Collection until 2024; however, EC members are welcome to give any comments or recommendations to the Council.

Related to this topic, Dr. Clyde reminded EC members that composting is still available through Java.

Planning Board Liaison Report – Chrmn. Robertson

Chrmn. Robertson reported that the Planning Board recently approved an application submitted by Garden Terrace Nursing Home on Main Street. An older structure next door to the nursing home will be demolished. Another structure, a wing to the existing building, will be constructed.

Chrmn. Robertson reported that the Board approved an application submitted by Charley's Aunt on South Passaic Avenue. The existing restaurant will extend into an empty store unit next door. A stream-lined appearance will be created for the front façade. The reason for this expansion is for a much needed installation of a grease trap. There will also be more room for patron tables. Chrmn. Robertson reported that she had encouraged Mr. Decker, the owner, to install energy-saving windows and doors with this renovation.

Future Environmental Inventory

Chrmn. Robertson reported that a meeting was held with Borough Administrator Steve Williams, Borough Planner Kendra Lelie, EC member Yana Doyle, and Janice Piccolo to discuss the creation of this Inventory. Chrmn. Robertson and Mrs. Doyle will be working together, focusing more on the details of this project. They will decide on what work the EC members could do themselves for the Inventory and what a consultant could help with.

Chrmn. Robertson noted that Ms. Lelie had informed her that a Climate Vulnerability Action Plan has to be done. Some of the info gathered for this Action Plan can be used for the Environmental Inventory. Chrmn. Robertson stated that the goal is to make the Inventory a useful document, especially for the people involved in the town's Planning and Zoning matters.

Charging Station – Mr. Treloar

Mr. Treloar reported that he has emailed Borough Administrator Steve Williams on this matter. Mr. Treloar will try and pick up where former Chrmn. Van Wie had left off on this project.

Earth Day 2023

Chrmn. Robertson noted that Earth Day 2023 falls on a Saturday. Perhaps another vehicle expo could be done again on that Saturday with the Motor Co. Café in Madison. Dr. Clyde reported that she has reached out to Dance Renovations. They've expressed an interest in doing a dance presentation on Earth Day.

Dr. Clyde reported that ANJEC has been offering an opportunity for people to watch this documentary about the Passaic River in New Jersey. This film was done by Scott Morris Productions. Dr. Clyde has been in touch with Mr. Morris. She suggested having American River shone as part of the Earth Day celebration. Dr. Clyde also suggested that another native plant sale be held. Usually the sale launches on April 1st.

Dr. Clyde recommended that the entire month of April should be focused on green activities to allow for additional participants, like Dance Innovations to offer presentations.

Dr. Clyde stated she would like to have a composting display/program set up again. She pointed out that Allison Slater had done an excellent job in organizing the composting display for last Earth Day. Dr. Clyde reported that Ms. Slater would also like to continue her Green Footprint program.

Sustainable Jersey

Dr. Clyde has received word that former Borough employee, Margie Lowe, isn't interested in taking on the per diem work for the Sustainable Jersey paperwork/submission. This project will have to be done internally at Borough Hall. A Green Team meeting will be held next week. Sustainable Jersey will be discussed.

On other matters, Dr. Clyde reminded Chrmn. Robertson that she will have to write a year-end report on the Environmental Commission's activities for 2022, and the Commission's plans for **2023**. That report will be submitted to the Borough Council.

Chrmn. Robertson suggested that in this coming year, the Chatham EC keep in touch with neighboring Environmental Commissions to share ideas on making our communities and local businesses greener.

Dr. Clyde pointed out that Madison Borough has an Environmental checklist. Anyone submitting an application to the Madison Planning Board or Zoning Board is given this checklist as part of their application packet. The checklist is available on the Rosenet website.

Ms. Soteropoulos volunteered to look over Madison's checklist. She will ask her husband, Greg Xikes, to help with this review.

Before adjourning, Commissioners reached out again to Val Clark, the member of the public, on the Zoom call. Ms. Clark responded saying she had no comments.

At 9:06 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Minutes Secretary