

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
September 14, 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. This was an in-person meeting in Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building. Mrs. Robertson read aloud the Statement of Adequate Notice. All legal notices have been posted for this meeting.

Name	Present	Absent
Susan Robertson	X	
Pat Soteropoulos	X	
Rozella Clyde	X	
Joseph Treloar	X	
Ben Lampert	X	
Yana Doyle	X	
Allison Slater	X	
Council Member Jocelyn Mathiasen	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Also present:

Lisa Allocco, member of the Green Team of Chatham Borough

Public Comment

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Dr. Clyde made a motion to approve the July 13, 2022 EC minutes as submitted with her edits incorporated. Ms. Soteropoulos seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The minutes of the July 13, 2022 EC minutes were unanimously approved.

Allison Slater of 171 Weston Ave. was sworn in as a Regular Member of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission.

Reports/Pending Business

Borough Council Liaison Report

Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Borough Council has done an RFP for a company that can do home energy audits for Chatham Borough. These audits will be at a discount for Borough residents. Regarding the commercial recycling problems in town, Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Code Enforcement Officer had spoken with the businesses where residents had reported recycling requirements not being followed. One business has purchased a new dumpster. Council Member Mathiasen will re-visit this topic at the next meeting.

Council Member Mathiasen brought up a recent NY Times article reporting that people now have piles of reusable plastic bags in their homes. There is no place to deposit them, recycle them, etc. Council Member Mathiasen has reached out to Mayor Kobylarz about this matter. Mayor Kobylarz reached out to the Governor's office. Council Member Mathiasen suggested that paper bags be allowed at least for home deliveries. Paper bags can be recycled.

On other matters, Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Recreation Commission is interested in installing permanent lights on Lum Field. Currently diesel lights are being rented to light Lum Field. They are very costly and very loud. Council Member Mathiasen noted that it would be helpful if the Environmental Commission could pass a resolution recommending these permanent lights. Also, information could be gathered on grants that could be applied for to pay for these lights. Fundraisers could be held by the Recreation Commission.

Regarding Post Office Plaza, Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Borough Council has voted on 100% Affordable fifteen units to be constructed. Currently there is a lot of litigation around it. The Site Plan Approval for these 15 units will go before the Planning Board probably in January. Council Member Mathiasen reported that she had asked that the Environmental Commission be permitted to give recommendations for this building.

Regarding the Borough's garbage contract, Council Member Mathiasen reported that the garbage bill went up 70% last year. This year it will go up another 10%. It is very hard now to find people who will pick up garbage. The Borough has to decide whether or not to stay with the current green bags or go to automated garbage collection, the one-armed bandit as suggested by our current vendor. Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Borough Council has to have a new contract in place by April 1st 2023. If a new garbage pick-up is decided on, every household in the Borough will have to obtain new garbage cans. Related to this issue, Council Member Mathiasen said a decision has to be made on the Borough's

bulk collection. A recent survey was taken by local residents. The majority of residents wanted the bulk collection to remain, even if it costs more money. Council Member Mathiasen had suggested to the Council that the Borough move to the automated collection method in April and work on the bulk situation in the remaining year. Council Member Mathiasen suggested someone from the Environmental Commission speak to the Borough Council regarding garbage collection. Commissioners discussed the size, gallon-wise, for any new garbage cans. Council Member Mathiasen is working on a financial model to help price out the different size garbage cans.

Council Member Mathiasen and Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of making changes to the town's current bulk practices.

Council Member Mathiasen described the new garbage containers being considered, which would be rodent-free with sealed tops. Mr. Treloar made a suggestion about scaling the fees in accordance with the size of the container.

Planning Board Liaison Report

Chrmn. Robertson stated that she will be taking a training course on Municipal Land Use very soon for new Board members. The next Planning Board meeting will be held on Wednesday night, September 21st. She will be sworn in as a new Board member.

Sustainability Fair 2022

Chrmn. Robertson showed Commissioners the "floor plan" of where each exhibitor will be located at the Fair on Saturday, September 24. There will be 16 exhibitors. There will be a mix between organizations giving out information and organizations where visitors could sign up for items like home energy audits, solar power, etc. Environmental action groups will be present. There will be environmental give-aways on hand.

Chrmn. Robertson noted that volunteers are needed at the Borough EC table. Volunteers are also needed to help vendors set up in the assigned places for the Fair.

Related to the Fair, Chrmn. Robertson reported that she has recently set up a Facebook Page for the Commission, that will display a calendar of events.

Chrmn. Robertson confirmed with Mr. Treloar that he had the EC banner to display at the Commission's table. Either Chrmn. Robertson or another Commissioner will be taking photos of this event.

Dr. Clyde reviewed what items she will have available on the Commission's table. Chrmn. Robertson noted that Janice Piccolo will be printing out copies of the Borough's walking trails. Dr. Clyde will bring her own canopy and table cloth. She also has crayons, activity books, and some seed packets to hand out. A crayon recycling bin will be set up. Dr. Clyde noted that some members of the Chatham High School Environmental Club will be helping out at the Fair.

Mrs. Doyle suggested Commissioners have an agreed-upon mission goal or message to give to the public at this event.

Chrmn. Robertson discussed the Hold-Harmless paperwork situation with Ms. Slater. Dr. Clyde reviewed how it was handled in earlier Fairs.

Ms. Slater reported that Janice Piccolo has reached out to six local businesses to explain the Sustainable Fair. Ms. Slater will be visiting these businesses to see if they will be sponsors for the Fair. She explained the "green footprint" rating system for businesses to participate in and display the foot print logo in their windows. She and Janice Piccolo will hold an event in the future outside or in one of the conference rooms to meet with local businesses to review what green practices they were following, or could follow. Ms. Slater gave each Commissioner a green footprint badge advertising this movement. The merchants could put the green footprint logo on their disposable bags. Mrs. Doyle suggested that this green foot movement be promoted at the Sustainability Fair. Perhaps a checklist/scoring could be available online for businesses to see how green they really were.

Council Member Mathiasen recalled that Mrs. Doyle had suggested that the Commission should have a theme. The theme could be is to just ask residents to honestly "do their part" in making the world a greener place. There are measures they can take, like not idling their vehicles, avoid using pesticides and fertilizers on their properties. Residents could be asked to seriously consider buying electric cars, using solar paneling on their homes, etc. Dr. Clyde felt that the general message of the Fair would be: "How green are you?" She complimented Ms. Slater on her beautiful green foot-pint poster and corresponding buttons.

Mr. Treloar offered to bring his leaf-sweeper in the location manual lawn-mower to the Ace Hardware exhibit. Ace Hardware will have other electrical gardening tools on display.

Event Brite

Chrmn. Robertson suggested this be covered at the next meeting.

2023 Initiatives for Sustainable Jersey

Dr. Clyde reported that the Borough's Sustainable Jersey application has to be submitted next year. She pointed out that an Environmental Resource Inventory be done. ANJEC has useful information to help with the inventory. Dr. Clyde recommended that the Green Team meeting in October should focus on mapping out the strategies to obtain the desired award from Sustainable Jersey. In past year, Chatham Borough had obtained the Silver Award from Sustainable Jersey. Dr. Clyde recommended a statistician, like former Commissioner Ernie Dorflinger, be recruited.

Regarding the statistician, Council Member Mathiasen pointed out that the County does GIS mapping for every municipality in Morris County. This mapping will show the town's flood areas, the sewer lines, etc. Council Member Mathiasen suggested the Green Team also meet with Kendra Lelie, the Borough's professional planner. Ms. Slater stated that a point-person be found for this project. Dr. Clyde noted that Shannon McCarty, in Janice Piccolo's office, will be doing the data entry work for the Sustainable Jersey submission.

Dr. Clyde explained that Sustainable Jersey does not have a Gold Classification. However, once a municipality obtains a Silver Classification, they can pursue one of the three Gold Stars – there is one in energy, one in water, and one in health. Dr. Clyde recommended Chatham Borough try to obtain the Gold Star in health.

Finishing up, Mrs. Doyle offered to create a brochure for residents, giving environmental resources. Ms. Slater suggested a QR Code be created for visitors, giving them a survey to do, for them to see how green their lifestyle is.

At 9:22 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 8 p.m., Room 301, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Minutes Secretary

cc: Mayor Thaddeus Kobylarz
Chatham Township Environmental Commission