

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

September 19, 2007

8:00 p.m.

Chairman Peter Kuyk called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, Upper Level, Chatham Municipal Building. Mr. Kuyk stated that adequate notice of this Environmental Commission meeting was given as required by the Open Public Meeting Act.

Members Present: Chairman Peter Kuyk, David Gerridge, Lee Byrd, John Tancredi.

Members Absent: Barbara Montague, Joan Thuebel, Dick Ligertwood, Jay Stewart, Councilman Bruce Harris.

Review of Minutes

The meeting minutes of July 25, 2007 were approved as amended.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Kuyk passed around the following:

Meeting minutes from neighboring communities

A letter from Bohler Engineering notifying the Commission that a property on Commerce St., next to the Passaic River, has applied to the State for a stream encroachment permit.

Copies of an article from The Star Ledger entitled: 'N.J. towns add green initiative'. Councilman Harris felt this article would be of interest to the Commission.

A draft of the 2008 Chatham Borough Calendar. Commissioners are welcome to check over the draft and make any corrections.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Mr. Gerridge gave a status report on the Ogden Memorial Church application which is before the Board. The church is proposing a new parking arrangement. Also, the ordinance, recommended by the Board, to revise the side yards in the B-2 and B-3 zones, has been adopted by the Council.

Open Space Committee

Councilman Harris was not present to give a report.

Borough Council

Councilman Harris was not present to give a report.

Old Business

Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

Mr. Kuyk reported that Mr. Stewart will deliver the completed ERI in PDF to the Kuyk family mailbox on Friday. Mr. Kuyk will forward the ERI on to the Borough Administrator. Mr. Falzarano will make copies of the disk to be distributed for one final review before it is posted on the Borough website.

Bob Thompson Memorial

Mr. Kuyk noted that Mr. Tancredi has done a great deal of research for this memorial. The memorial has been approved by the Borough Council and the funds have been designated. Mr. Falzarano and Bob Venezia, Director of the DPW, have met and discussed JCP & L's issues about the land around the berm. Councilman Harris has also been involved in these discussions. Mr. Kuyk believed the Commission can now seriously proceed with the actual installation of the memorial.

Commissioners discussed possible sizes and wordings of the memorial plaque. Mr. Tancredi showed some sample templates he had created. Mr. Tancredi reminded Commissioners that some time in the future, there is the possibility that the berm may disappear. That possibility should be taken that into consideration when deciding on the wording of the plaque.

Mr. Tancredi will e-mail his sample templates with the suggested wordings to Commissioners. Commissioners will e-mail suggestions and comments on the template to Mr. Kuyk or Mr. Tancredi. Hopefully at the next meeting, one of the templates will be approved by Commissioners and can then be ordered. Also, hopefully JCP & L will approve the installation of the memorial. Mr. Venezia and the DPW could be asked to move a rock in place for the plaque. Perhaps on Earth Day, next spring, a dedication ceremony could be held.

Mr. Tancredi reported that he had recently visited the berm and the trail at Shepard Kollock Park. The berm needs some serious maintenance work. Mr. Tancredi recommended that the berm be roto-tilled and mulched. The longer this work is delayed, the worse the berm will become.

Mr. Kuyk will ask Mr. Venezia if the DPW could bring the berm up to peak conditions again.

Open Space Development Committee

Wuhala Woods

Mr. Byrd reported that he hasn't heard from Michael Scofield, the scout who was planning to build a trail through Wuhala Woods. Mr. Byrd and Michael had walked through Wuhala Woods in July to plan this trail. Mr. Byrd had invited Michael to present his trail plans to the Commission at tonight's meeting; however, nothing further has transpired.

Birdhouse Installations

Mr. Kuyk will inform Mr. Ligertwood that the Commission is trying to move forward on this project.

No Idling Resolution

Mr. Kuyk distributed copies of the model resolution for no idling which had been presented at the July meeting. This resolution reminds drivers about the environmental hazards of idling their vehicles unnecessarily in public roadways and parking lots. Mr. Kuyk noted that Chatham Township has passed a version of this resolution. They are asking the Borough Commission to endorse this resolution and forward it on to the Borough Council for their consideration.

Commissioners discussed the enforcement issue of this ordinance. They felt motorists should just have reminders that idling is not a good practice. Mr. Kuyk said he will put the resolution on Commission stationery. At their next meeting, Commissioners will vote on whether or not to forward it on to the Borough Council.

Bike Paths

Mr. Byrd reported that he had given his presentation on bike paths before the Borough Council at their August 13th meeting. The deadline to submit a grant application for these bike paths was August 24th. The Borough Council has voted approval of this state grant submission and the application was submitted on time.

New Business

Referring to Councilman Harris's article, Mr. Tancredi brought up the idea of the Borough purchasing "green items"- environmentally friendly products for their buildings and grounds.

Mr. Kuyk suggested the Commission could recommend to the Borough Council that an energy audit be done on the municipal facilities. It still has to be decided how aggressive the audit should be, and how much it would cost. This project will be explored further at the next Commission meeting.

Before adjourning, Mr. Kuyk announced that his term on the Commission will be expiring at the end of December. He will not be renewing his membership. Mayor Plambeck is aware of Mr. Kuyk's decision. A new Chair for 2008 will have to be appointed.

At 8:50 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Richard Plambeck
Chatham Township Environmental Commission
Long Hill Township Environmental Commission
Bernards Township Environmental Commission