

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 16, 2008

8:00 p.m.

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

Members Present: Chairman Lee Byrd, Barbara Montague, Joan Thuebel, John Bitar, Dick Ligertwood, Councilman Bruce Harris.

Members Absent: John Tancredi

Review/Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of March 19, 2008 were approved as submitted.

Correspondence/Articles

Mr. Byrd reviewed the following items the Commission received in the mail:

- 1) Meeting minutes from Bernards Township and Chatham Township Environmental Commissions.
- 2) A thank you note from the Chatham Twp. Environmental Comm. regarding their "Turn the Key – Idle Free".
- 3) A DEP notice that the Solid Waste Facility Permit for Summit's Transfer Station has been renewed.
- 4) Information from the NJ DOT that applications are now being accept for municipal aid for bikeway trails.

Mr. Lee suggested Commissioners look into applying for this municipal aid for bike trails. A resolution from the Borough Council would be needed to make this application. Councilman Harris suggested an alternate route for the proposed bike trail which would avoid intense traffic.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board

Mr. Bitar reported that a minor subdivision was approved on the corner of Hillside Ave. and Lafayette Place. Also, a demolition permit has been issued to Shailja, LLC (Dunkin' Donuts) to demolish the abandoned gas station on Main Street. The Board also granted final site approval to Ogden Memorial Church for additional parking.

Borough Council

Councilman Harris reported that the Open Space tax will be put on the agenda in the near future.

Councilman Harris reported a Boy Scout gave a presentation to the Borough Council proposing to re-do the strip of land containing the dilapidated sidewalk along side the edge of the train station parking lot. This sidewalk was once used by students at the Lum Avenue School to reach Fairmount Ave. This sidewalk is no longer in use and is unsafe. It runs on Borough property. The scout is proposing to remove the sidewalk and put in a pathway. The DPW has offered to do the actual removal. The scout will create the pathway.

Pending Business

Green Fair (2008 goal)

Mr. Bitar distributed a list of green vendors which Maplewood had used for their Green Fair. Councilman Harris reported that the Chamber of Commerce is seriously considering changing their Annual Sidewalk Sale to a Green Fair. Mr. Bitar will touch base with the Chamber leaders, Andy Copp and Carolyn Cherry, and give them his information on the green vendors.

Recycling Center Redesign

Mr. Byrd reminded Commissioners that their Recycling Assistance Day is May 17th. He will e-mail Commissioners to see what time slots they would be available to work that day. Working at the Recycling Center should give the Commissioners ideas on possible redesigns of the center.

Fluorescent Bulb Recycling (2008 goal)

Mr. Byrd noted that this is Mr. Tancredi's project. Discussion on this project will continue when he returns.

Update of available grant funds & their potential uses

Mr. Byrd reported that the Commission still had \$3,536 from the Westcott Foundation. Dotty Klein, the CFO of Chatham Borough, has informed Mr. Byrd that the Commission also has \$883 from a Great Swamp Watershed Association grant of 2004. Mrs. Klein strongly recommended to Mr. Byrd that the Commission take action as soon as possible with these amounts. Mr. Byrd suggested some of the funds be used stainless steel drinking bottles, examples of which he had on the table tonight. They could be distributed at the Commission's Fishawack booth. Perhaps the Commission's logo could be printed on each bottle with the Westcott fund name on the bottom. Mr. Byrd showed a recycled tote bag made from old bottles. Commissioners decided since the schools are already selling stainless steel drinking bottles, they will use the funds for recycling bags for the Green Fair in the fall, not Fishawack Day. Mr. Byrd said he will get a quote on these bags.

Fishawack Day

The Commissioners will have their usual flyers at their table. Councilman Harris suggested an Open Space map be put up for visitors to look at.

Environmental Resource Inventory

Mr. Byrd distributed copies of the completed ERI to Commissioners. He noted he has ordered 50 copies. He will give the ERI disk to Mrs. Caljean, the Boro Clerk, to put on the Borough web site. Councilman Harris suggested copies be sent to the Mayor, Borough Council Members, and Planning Board members with a cover letter from the Commission. A copy will be sent to ANJEC. Mrs. Montague will take a copy to the Chatham Library.

Wuhala Woods

Mr. Byrd recalled that at the last meeting this topic was put on hold because the future of the Open Space Tax was uncertain.

No Idling Campaign

Mr. Byrd noted a letter has been received from Chatham Township reporting what measures they have taken on this campaign.

Back to Tap

Mr. Byrd said he postponed this topic for tonight's meeting. It will be re-scheduled for a future meeting.

New Business/Discussion

Mrs. Montague brought up the latest news report of New Jersey turf fields containing lead.

Mr. Ligertwood commented that the Bob Thompson plaque dedication ceremony on April 12th went very well. People visiting Shepard Kollock Field that morning also became more aware of the Commission and the trail they clean every year. The event received good coverage in the newspapers.

At 9:00 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, 8 p.m. in the Conference Room, Middle Level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor V. Nelson Vaughan, III
Chatham Township Environmental Commission

Long Hill Township Environmental Commission
Bernards Township Environmental Commission