

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

June 13, 2018

8:00 p.m.

Chairwoman Kate Murphy called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 8:00 p.m. in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Borough Hall. Chrwmn. Murphy announced that all legal notices had been posted for this meeting.

The roll call was taken:

Name	Present	Absent
Kate Murphy, Chrwmn.	X	
John Tancredi		X
Ben Lampert	X	
Kevin Murphy	X	
John S. Dey	X	
Kyle Muir	X	
Patricia Soteropoulos	X	
Torri Van Wie	X	
Council Member Len Resto	X	
Liz Holler, Minutes Clerk	X	

Also present:

Joseph Treloar, a prospective member of the Commission

Rozella Clyde, member of the Borough Green Team

Steve Williams, Borough Administrator

Tony Torello, Director, Chatham Borough Public Works

Vincent DeNave, Borough Engineer & Zoning Official

Suzi Robertson, an interested resident

Karen Koronkowicz, an interested resident

Public Comment

Mr. Williams explained that he, Mr. Torello, and Mr. DeNave are present tonight to give a report on Chatham Borough's Historic Trail and the 2018 Trail Grant. They wanted the Commission to be aware of the next phase of the grant request. Mayor Harris had wanted the Environmental Commission to listen to the proposals before the Borough sends a letter of intent for the 2018 grant to continue the trail that has begun at Shepard Kollock Park. Mr. Williams invited Mr. DeNave to give his presentation.

Referring to a map he had put up, Mr. DeNave explained that a couple of years ago, Morris County had presented a trail grant opportunity for the Borough. Mayor Harris and others proposed that Chatham Borough and the City of Summit create a trail loop. The loop would allow people to walk all the way from Main Street to Stanley Park and back again. This trail isn't meant to be a bike trail. It will serve as a historic walking trail along the river.

Mr. DeNave reported that the Borough was successful in obtaining the first portion of the trail grant. He noted that Public Works was able to undertake much of the construction work for the

trail. Currently, an asphalt trail circles the playing fields at Shepard Kollock Park. The future trail will be branching off into the woods, hugs the river, and goes down to the former trolley car embankment. The wood chip trail will be lined with logs.

Mr. DeNave explained that Phase One for grant money was for the trail from Shepard Kollock Park to travel all the way out to Summit Avenue. Currently, the trail is not quite out to Summit Avenue yet. That portion of land can be very moist, being close to the river. The money is there to finish the trail out to Summit Ave.

Mr. DeNave described Phase Two. This proposed trail would travel from Summit to Watchung Ave. Unfortunately, Chatham Borough does not have control over all the properties in this section. Mr. DeNave noted that Phase Two has easements from two businesses situated close to the river: DeFalco's and Chatham Stone & Earth. Additional easements are still needed. Because of the missing easements, the trail will not be able to travel from Summit all the way to Watchung Avenue. Chatham Borough is working towards obtaining these missing easements. In the meantime, the Borough will move on to Phase Three.

Mr. DeNave noted that Phase Three would begin at Stanley Park. He reviewed all the land owned by the Borough, starting at Stanley Park, and running along the Passaic River on River Road, which is owned by the Borough. The property owned by Rotondi for his recycling business is the exception. The Borough has an agreement with Rotondi **for** an easement through the Rotondi property.

Mr. DeNave reported that the Borough has made a great deal of progress on the first portion of this grant. The Borough should be able to obtain the entire grant money. The Borough has three years to complete this project with the grant money.

Commissioners and Mr. DeNave discussed the City of Summit's lack of response with this trail project. Mr. DeNave stated that Chatham Borough will go ahead with the trail plans on their side of the river.

Dr. Clyde asked if there would be seating facilities along the trails.

Mr. DeNave described the kiosks and benches that would be installed along the trail. Some thought was given to constructing some kind of observation deck over the abutments in the river, where the trolley car bridge was located.

Commissioners were very supportive of the proposed trail plans.

Mr. DeNave encouraged Commissioners to walk along the proposed trail line. It currently is a well-defined pathway to walk. They can easily negotiate the proposed trail and not get lost.

Mrs. Van Wie asked how hard would it be for the Borough to obtain the still-needed easements to complete the trail.

Mr. DeNave felt that the Borough will eventually obtain all these easements to make the trails connect. One of the property owners is involved in a court case with the Borough. Good progress is being made with two other property owners. Administrator Williams noted that the correct documentation on these easements must be in place when the Borough submits for these grants.

Administrator Williams noted that the next step, if the Commission is in favor of this trail project, a resolution could then be put on the Borough Council's agenda for June 25<sup>th</sup> to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter of intent. Thirty days after the letter of intent is submitted, the actual grant request goes in.

Administrator Williams and Mr. DeNave thanked the Commission for their time. Mr. DeNave departed the meeting.

#### Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of the May 9, 2018 Environmental Commission meeting were approved as amended.

#### Liaison Reports Planning Board

Mrs. Van Wie reported that the Board is still waiting for the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for the Post Office Plaza Re-development. The deadline for developers' submissions is July 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Williams explained once all submissions have been received by the Borough, there will be a steering committee which will review all of the RFQs submitted. On July 26<sup>th</sup>, interviews will be held with each of the selected developers. A decision will then be made.

Administrator Williams suggested to Chrwmm. Murphy and Mrs. Van Wie that they send a note to Council Member Hoffman stating what environmental, energy-efficient measures the Commission would want a future developer to follow for Post Office Plaza re-development. Administrator Williams asked to be copied on that note to Council Member Hoffman.

#### Borough Council Recycle Coach

Administrator Williams explained that Recycle Coach will help Chatham Borough obtain their Gold Certification for Sustainable Jersey. It will also enable the Borough to have an APP it never had before. Administrator Williams reported that the State of New Jersey DEP has now contracted with Recycle Coach for any community who wants it.

Administrator Williams reported that this APP will provide the entire recycling schedule for Chatham Borough. A resident can also check on this APP to see if a particular item will be accepted for recycling. The APP can send out alerts to residents that a recycling day is coming up. If a resident's recycling wasn't picked up for the day, the resident can use this APP to contact Roselli, the Borough's recycling contractor.

Related to this topic, Mrs. Van Wie reported that progress is being made having recycling bins installed at the Main Café in Chatham High School. Metal eating utensils, instead of plastic, will now be used. An educational video will be made available to instruct people on the new procedures for recycling.

#### Pesticides on Borough Fields

Mr. Dey brought up the organic pesticides. He reported that the Commission's subcommittee met with Mike Kolenut from Lincoln Landscaping on Saturday. Mr. Murphy, for the newspapers, has drafted an article regarding using organics on lawns. Administrator Williams recommended three local news entities to submit the article to.

Mr. Torello reported that the Borough has given the go-ahead to Lincoln Landscaping to treat the front lawn at Borough Hall and the Library lawn. The reason aeration of the lawns wasn't done was because of a budget issue. Future treatment of Borough fields, for 2019, should be discussed starting in mid-August. Mr. Torello emailed Lincoln Landscaping a list of Borough properties and asked for an estimate.

Council Member Resto felt that the lawns at Borough Hall and the Library look good so far.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of listing the organic ingredients used by Lincoln Landscaping for their pesticide treatment in the Borough. Residents should be comfortable with what is being used on Borough fields.

Ms. Soteropoulos passed around the Commission table a pertinent article: "What's on Your Lawn".

Mr. Dey asked if he could have the Commission's permission to install the lawn signs on the Borough fields that are being treated by Lincoln's pesticides. He suggested that these signs have a message referring people to the Commission's website for further information on these lawn treatments.

Mrs. Van Wie suggested that the Commission could publish a newsletter periodically to report on projects being undertaken, like these lawn treatments.

Council Member Resto said he had some experience with those type of newsletters. At a future time, the Commission could decide on how to distribute the newsletter.

Mr. Dey confirmed that he now had the green light from the Commission to install the lawn signs.

Mr. Dey asked Council Member Resto to review the recent resolution he had drafted for consideration by the Borough Council.

Council Member Resto stated that this resolution expresses the Commission's recommendation to the Mayor and Borough Council to budget for the expense of switching the treatment of all

Borough properties, including playing fields, to all organic methods during the upcoming budget cycle.

Related to this discussion, Administrator Williams reported that TruGreen has informed him that they will not treat all of the Borough fields on the same day. The fields, undergoing treatment, will be closed for 24-hours after treatment. No activities will be scheduled for each Borough park or field during this 24-hour span.

Mr. Dey asked where could residents find out when mosquito spraying will be done in their town.

Administrator Williams answered that they could refer to the County Mosquito Commission web site for the mosquito spraying schedule. The County does not do tick spraying.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve Environmental Commission Resolution #18-04, giving the Commission's recommendation to the Mayor and Borough Council to budget for the expense of switching the treatment of all Borough properties, including playing fields, to all organic during the upcoming budget cycle. Mr. Dey seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Commissioners present voted aye. The resolution was approved.

Mr. Torello will be in charge of posting the necessary pesticide signs.

Closely related to this topic, Ms. Soteropoulos reported that recently a contractor "Mosquito Squad" had used a backpack sprayer in her neighborhood to spray for mosquitoes. No ingredients were listed on the backpack. Children were playing on that lawn immediately afterwards. Ms. Soteropoulos felt that residents, particularly parents, should be made aware of harmful conditions like this spraying. The Commission's newsletter could send an important message to the public.

Commissioners discussed other ways to alert people of these pesticide sprayings.

Chwmn. Murphy asked Commissioners to gather their thoughts on this situation, so an effective message can be sent to the public.

Mr. Torello and Administrator Williams departed the meeting.

#### Electric Vehicles

Chwmn. Murphy reported that a webinar on this topic will be held tomorrow night at 6 p.m. She will email further information to interested Commissioners.

#### Fishawack Festival 2018

Chwmn. Murphy reported that there were a number of visitors at the Commission's table. Sharing a table with the Borough Shade Tree Commission worked very well. Chwmn. Murphy thanked all the Commissioners who staffed the table during the Festival.

#### Sustainable Jersey

Chrwmn, Murphy reported that excellent progress is being made. The Green Team will be meeting next Tuesday. They will be working towards obtaining the Gold Certification. Council Member Resto noted that 610 points were recently achieved.

At 9:26 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 11, 2018, 8:00 p.m., Room 212, Chatham Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris  
Chatham Township Historical Society