

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
April 11, 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 the Council Chambers, Upper 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	
Steve Cheng		X
Kyle Muir	X	
Patricia Soteropoulos	X	
Torri Van Wie	X	
Council Member Resto	X	
Liz Holler, Minutes Secretary	X	

Kat Xikes, Pat Soteropoulos' daughter, attended as an interested observer
Cara Feeser, Commissioner, Chatham Twp. Environmental Commission

Public Comment

Ms. Feeser referred the Commissioners to the lecture they had listened to earlier in the evening by Brad Park of Rutgers University. She noted that some of the terms may be hard for a layman to understand. Ms. Feeser didn't think it had to be all that difficult to grasp. She pointed out that the local schools do not use fertilizers on their fields. Their fields are in acceptable condition. Ms. Feeser felt that there is a common desire to make the grass look nice; however, efforts shouldn't go **too** overboard.

Ms. Feeser reported that she has visited several athletic fields. She felt that the soil itself has to be in good condition, regardless of whatever is sprayed on the grass.

Ms. Soteropoulos reported that she had called the School District to discuss the athletic fields. The School District informed her that they haven't applied anything to the grass in nine years. They just have the grass cut when needed.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of March 14, 2018 were approved as amended.

Correspondence for the Commission

Chrwmn. Murphy reported that the Commission has received no mail to date; however, she would like to announce the following upcoming events:

The Sustainability Conference will be held on June 23rd.

The Chatham Borough Clean-up Day will be held on May 5th, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For the Clean-up Day, volunteers can choose to either work at Reasoner Park or Shepard Kollock Park. Over 1,000 trees will be available to be planted along Riverside Trail. Council Member Resto reported that some of the trees will be native species, and some will be shrubs. He discussed the grant the Borough had recently been awarded from the NJ Forestry Division.

Mrs. Van Wie's event will be the same time at the Library of the Chathams. The event is designed in modules so people can attend those portions they are interested in.

Commissioners discussed who would work at the Community Rain Garden by the Memorial Park Pool on North Passaic Avenue.

Chwmn. Murphy reported that she and Mr. Murphy will be conducting a Frog Walk for youngsters on Thursday, at Kelley's Pond.

Mr. Dey reminded Commissioners that a decision has to be made on which contractor will be hired to fertilize the Borough grounds. Council Member Resto noted that ultimately Mr. Torello, Director of the DPW, decides; however, the Environmental Commission should be kept in the loop and contribute their comments and thoughts. A Commission sub-committee was appointed: Mr. Dey, Ms. Soteropoulos, Mr. Murphy, and Council Member Resto to review the contracts.

Liason Reports

Planning Board

Ms. Van Wie brought up the future development of the Post Office Plaza. She volunteered to research and come up with preferred recommendations that the Commission may want to make regarding the future development of the Plaza. Council Member Resto noted that Commissioners should have a voice in asking for more green space for this area and green measures be followed.

Borough Council

Council Member Resto had nothing new to report.

Organic Lawn Care

Chwmn. Murphy noted that this topic and pesticides were adequately covered in the presentation earlier this evening.

Sustainable Jersey Silver Certification

Chrmn. Murphy reported that everything is on course. Two new members will be joining the Green Team. Council Member Resto added that Mayor Harris had said the Environmental Resource Inventory could be used. Council Member Resto reported that the Green Team meets next Tuesday.

April Community Eco-Event

Mrs. Van Wie will have fliers to distribute in the near future. Chrwmn. Murphy suggested sending the proposed flier to Janice Piccolo in Borough Hall. Mrs. Piccolo can print up a batch for distribution. Mrs. Van Wie said she needed help with refreshments at the Green Energy Fair of the Chathams. Two Commissioners offered to pick up coffee and donuts. Julie Kolehous-Diplas will be giving a presentation on Green Gardening. Chatham High School's Green Team will also participate. Council Member Resto suggested a press release be sent to Ed Barmakian for Tap into Chatham. A photo of the students involved in this event would be helpful.

On other matters, Council Member Resto brought up the Commissioners future tour of the MCMUA's Recycling Center. The original date didn't work out. He reminded Commissioners that the tour is limited to five people and the tour is only conducted on weekdays. Chrwmn. Murphy asked if Thursday, May 3rd would be a good date for the tour. Council Member Resto said he will check with MCMUA.

Commission's Facebook Page

Commissioners suggested that information on Mrs. Van Wie's April Community Eco-Event be put on the Facebook Page. Also, an announcement of the Frog Walk could be posted. Chrwmn. Murphy will send the details on the Frog Walk to Mr. Lampert. Ms. Feeser will send Mr. Lampert information on the tree seedling give-away at the Tanglewood Lane Compost Area, Chatham Township, on April 28th, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Seedlings will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis.

Pilgrim Pipeline

Council Member Resto reported that a conference call was held with the Municipal Pipeline Group urging all members to renew their yearly membership. The funds will allow the law firm to carry on its work.

Boy Scouts

Mr. Tancredi was not present to give the report.

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

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 8:00 p.m., Room 212, Chatham Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Bruce Harris
Chatham Township Environmental Commission