

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

September 13, 2023

7:30 p.m.

Chrmn. Susan Robertson called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. 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, Chrmn.	X	
Pat Soteropoulos, Vice Chrmn.	X	
Rozella Clyde	X	
Yana Doyle		X
Joseph Treloar	X – arrived later in the evening	
Allison Slater		X
Nicholas Eck	X	
James Cashel	X	
Lisa Allocco		X
Council Member Koronkiewicz		X
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Also in attendance:

John von Knorring, a resident from Green Village
Council Member Jocelyn Mathiasen

At the beginning of the meeting a quorum was not present.

Public Comment

There were none.

Borough Council Liaison Report

Council Member Mathiasen filled in for Council Koronkiewicz. Chrmn. Robertson and Mr. Treloar also contributed to this Liaison Report.

Chrmn. Robertson gave an update on the Borough's program for the issuing new garbage bins for the coming year. The residential sign-ups for the smallest bin has been much more popular than expected. The EC's efforts to encourage people to re-think their trash, may have had an effect on the residents' choice of size. Chrmn. Robertson suggested the sample garbage bins be put on display at this month's Sustainability Fair. She and Vice Chrmn. Soteropoulos recommended that the medium-sized bin should be encouraged for larger families.

Council Member Mathiasen explained the expense of these bins as determined by the Borough Council. The Borough has to officially authorize these garbage bins and order them by October 1st. Council Member Mathiasen reported that the Borough Council is working on a way for the old garbage bins can be collected and hopefully be recycled.

Council Member Mathiasen and Chrmn. Robertson reported that the \$100,000 that was supposed to be used for solar panels for BNE's Ivy building under construction on River Road is still under discussion. The insurance company informed BNE that their premiums would increase with solar.

Chrmn. Robertson reported that she, Borough Administrator Steve Williams and Mr. Treloar had recently met with two solar companies. They did a drive-around to look at all the Borough buildings to see which ones could handle solar installations. Mr. Treloar felt that the \$100,000 would not adequately cover a solar paneling project in a parking lot. The installation of steel supports makes such a project very expensive. Chrmn. Robertson suggested since the \$100,000 can't be used for the Ivy building, maybe the money could be used for another environmental project. At the next Borough Council Meeting, probably in Executive Session, the Council will discuss whether BNE will be permitted to give \$100,000 for another solar project to be determined.

Chrmn. Robertson reported that solar arrays will be installed at the Joint Meeting Sewage facilities.

Chrmn. Mathiasen reported that the Board of Recreation is working towards eliminating the portable diesel-fueled lights on the Lum Avenue athletic field. The Board would like to purchase LED lights for the field, which would be a cleaner, quieter alternative. The Board of Recreation will meet with the Lum Avenue neighbors to hear their feedback about the new lighting. The Board will also listen to the views of the Borough Council. After consideration of these views, a fundraising could begin to purchase the LED lights. It would be appreciated if the Environmental Commission could give support for these LED lights since these lights will be an improvement over the older lights which have been loud, messy and produce an unpleasant smell.

Planning Board – Liaison Report

Chrmn. Robertson reported on an application approved by the Planning Board at their September 6th meeting. Axlyn Somers, owner of TM Ward Coffee Company, presently at 7 South Passaic Avenue, was seeking a Change of Permitted Use with a Waiver of Site Plan. Mrs. Somers was proposing to move her coffee business into an empty store unit at 255 Main Street. This new store unit would provide TM Ward Coffee with more needed prep space. TM Ward creates many gift baskets, as well as coffee items.

Also at the September 6th Planning Board meeting, Chrmn. Robertson had discussed an Environmental Checklist to Planning Board Chair Susan Favate and Mrs. Nienhouse, the Board's Administrative Secretary. Chrmn. Robertson asked that the Environmental Checklist be included in the Planning Board's Application Checklist process. She subsequently provided a

copy of Madison Borough's Environmental checklist and Chatham Township's for consideration.

Resolution # PB 2021-01

The Commission approved the following meeting minutes:

June 14, 2023

July 12, 2023

Chrmn. Robertson abstained from voting on the June 14th, because she was absent that night.

Environmental Resources Inventory (ERI) Update on Land Conservancy – James Cashel

Mr. Cashel reported that the Land Conservancy has agreed to do the draft for the ERI. They will start work in mid-October. Certain parts of the ERI the Land Conservancy will do. The EC will be responsible for other parts.

Dr. Clyde pointed out that it's important for the EC to identify the locations in the Borough that need environmental protection. The Planning Board needs to be alerted to these places.

Chrmn. Robertson pointed out that the EC now has the GSI as a resource to help with the inventory.

Sustainability Fair & EV Expo details

Chrmn. Robertson showed Commissioners the "floor plan" from last year's Fair. She has given to Shannon McCarty, who creates the assigned spaces for the Farmers Market, a list of this year's vendors. Chrmn. Robertson had tried to link up these organizations, space-wise, that have similar offerings. Twenty-five potential vendors will participate in the Fair. Specialized Bikes has not responded yet. Tom Salvos has agreed to take photos again this year. Chrmn. Robertson gave Vice Chrmn. Soteropoulos the list of expected vendors and their assigned spaces.

Chrmn. Robertson mentioned some vendors that will be coming: Morris County Parks, the Borough Shade Tree Commission and "Avenues in Motion", an organization which encourages ways to improve zero-emission transportation. Dr. Clyde said that she had reached out to Market Street Mission, who expressed an interest.

Chrmn. Robertson noted that Dance Innovations will not be participating. School of Rock will participate. She gave further details about cones, road barriers, and signage for the EV vehicles.

Regarding car dealers, Chrmn. Robertson noted that unfortunately Westfield is holding a drive-by event the same day as the Sustainability Fair. That may impact the number of vendors for our Sustainability Fair. Chrmn. Robertson reviewed the tables that will be reserved for vendors who are involved with electric vehicles. She will set up QR codes for visitors to indicate their degree of interest in each electric vehicle, such as taking a test drive.

Dr. Clyde will have some environmental hand-out items. She won't be giving out seed packets this time.

Chrmn. Robertson said she will keep in contact with Commissioners regarding the Fair. Unfortunately, she will be out of town that day.

Chrmn. Robertson presented Dr. Clyde with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Dr. Clyde will be retiring from all of her civic activities to spend more time with family. Chrmn. Robertson thanked Dr. Clyde for all her hard work and encouragement for the Environmental Commission. There will be an autumn get-together to honor Rozella and Jim Clyde for all their dedicated work to the community.

Chrmn. Robertson reminded Commissioners of the Town-wide Garage Sale is on Saturday, September 30th, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At 9:37 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary

cc: Mayor Kobylarz
Chatham Township Environmental Commission