

CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 8, 20237:30 p.m.

Chrmn. Robertson called this Regular Meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. in Room 301, Upper Level, in the Chatham Municipal Building. Chrmn. 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
Yana Doyle		X
Joseph Treloar	X	
Allison Slater	X	
Nicholas Eck	X	
James Cashel	X	
Lisa Allocco	X	
Council Member Koronkiewicz	X	
Liz Holler, Recording Secretary	X	

Public Comments

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Mr. Cashel made a motion to approve the October 11, 2023 EC meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Treloar seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The October 11, 2023 minutes were approved.

Reports/Pending Business

Sustainable Jersey Certification – Chrmn. Robertson, Nick Eck, Lisa Allocco

Chrmn. Robertson reported that since the last meeting, Mr. Eck and Ms. Allocco have kindly agreed to serve as the EC Liaisons to the Borough's Sustainable Jersey certification work. Both Janice Piccolo and Shannon McCarty cannot make tonight's EC meeting. Chrmn. Robertson had spoken with Mrs. Piccolo and clarified with her that the SJ Certification is a Borough project that the EC and Green Team support. Chrmn. Robertson had asked for a list of SJ points the Borough is targeting. The EC will provide the volunteers from the Commission to help. Community Services has already held some events to earn points toward SJ certification. Write-ups will be done on these events. Also, there are copies of previous SJ cycles available in Borough Hall. Three new, innovative events in the future will must be held by Community Services to earn more points.

Borough Council Report – Council Member Koronkiewicz

Council Member Koronkiewicz reported that The Ivy Apartment building at 2 River Road will hold its official opening on December 5th.

Council Member Koronkiewicz gave an update on the Borough's lead line replacement project. This project will take 8 years to complete. A five-year payment plan will be put in place for residents to pay the placement of the new pipe to the sewer line in the street.

Chrmn. Robertson discussed Resolution #23-323 which would establish the electric, hybrid, or alternative fuel vehicle purchasing policy for the Borough of Chatham.

Chrmn. Robertson reported on the election results from last night's General Election. She is looking forward to working with the new Mayor and the two new Council Members.

Planning Board Report – Chairman Robertson

Chrmn. Robertson reported that at their November 1st meeting, the Board had approved the opening of a new business on Main Street – Yestertoys. Collectible and vintage toys will be sold by Mr. Randy Falk and his family. Mr. Falk may also be running workshops in the future. The shop's opening hours are designed to give diners on Main Street somewhere to shop in the evenings.

Environmental Resources Inventory (ERI) – Mr. Cashel

Mr. Cashel reported that the EC will be working with the Land Conservancy to complete the ERI in 2024. He is working on a draft on what sections the Commissioners will be responsible for. Mr. Cashel will have this draft ready at the next meeting.

Garbage cans – recycling/conversion workshops – Ms. Allocco

Ms. Allocco has done some research online on what could be done with unused garbage cans once the new cans are delivered in January. Chrmn. Robertson suggested some videos could be downloaded online to help with this issue.

EC is looking at converting the unused garbage cans into composters and other eco-friendly items for our gardens.

Composting at schools – Ms. Slater

Ms. Slater reported that she will be visiting the High School to see if students could run a composting program in their cafeterias. If so, a pilot program with the students could be started. Infrastructure could be installed in the schools for composting food scraps. Ms. Slater will provide a progress report in January. Chrmn. Robertson pointed out that Brooklyn recycles its food scraps, so smaller towns should be able to do it too.

On the topic of recycling, Chrmn. Robertson distributed free lunch bags that were made from recycled plastic bottles. They were donation by the NJ Electric Vehicle Association (NJEVA).

Chrmn. Robertson reviewed the membership status of the Commissioners. There may be openings on the Commission in the coming year. She asked Commissioners to think of anyone they know who may be interested in joining.

Ms. Slater discussed a Health & Wellness event that will be held in the spring after Easter. This event is being developed by the Chamber of Commerce.

Chmn. Robertson reminded Commissioners that next Wednesday night, at her home, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., a retirement gathering will be held for Rozella Clyde.

On another matter, Mr. Treloar reported that he has reviewed the Shade Tree Commission's list of preferred trees for Chatham Borough. He found that two-thirds of the trees listed were not native to New Jersey. Mr. Treloar will attend a future STC meeting to discuss this with the Commissioners. He will let Colleen Truppo, the Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission, know that he will be attending.

At 8:27 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Environmental Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 7:30 p.m., Room 301, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary