

Chatham Township Environmental Commission  
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600  
Minutes of the Tuesday, January 7, 2020

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:27 pm on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Amy Mason, Dan Miller, Jessica Romeo, Dot Stillinger. Absent: Matt Palmer and Don Travisano. Also attending, Asher Robson from Chatham Middle School - environmental ambassador and township resident/BOA member Lisa McHugh.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township Committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2020 January 2021 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at [www.chathamtownship.org](http://www.chathamtownship.org). The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings including the Land Use Subcommittee, join the discussions and participate in projects.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS FOR 2020 AND JANUARY 2021 First Tuesdays except second Tuesday in January 2021 to meet after the Township Committee reorganization meeting: February 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July NO MEETING, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 10 (avoid election day), December 1 and January 12, 2021.

#### RE-ORGANIZATION

Maureen Kelly nominated Dot Stillinger as Chairperson and Jessica Romeo 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.  
Dot Stillinger nominated Cara Feeser as Deputy Chair of CTEC and Dan Miller 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

CHRISTINA MOTT IS LEAVING CTEC Grateful thanks to Christina Mott for her exceptional contributions to CTEC. You'll be missed, Christina.

Dan Miller motioned to approve the December 10, 2019 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Maureen Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:35-8:20) Maureen Kelly, Green Team Chair, Jessica Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair - 2018 BRONZE CERTIFICATION. Recertification for 2021.

Reviewed list of Actions for Sustainable Communities. Need township clarification regarding "making your town solar friendly" and would like to pursue this action. Review a Bicycle Plan to educate bikers as county roads have no shoulder and promote other pathways. Add Historic Preservation Elements to masterplan. A new link is coming to the NJ Sustainable Jersey website, whereas you can check off completed actions. May actions exist and need re-adoption.

NORTH NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE Jessica Romeo, Municipal Alliance Subcommittee - Plastic bag ban ordinance in Chatham Township adopted on Oct. 10 and goes into effect March 1, 2020. Informational signage needed. Still working on bag donation and bag give way ideas and suggestions. Eight (8) towns from this alliance have adopted the plastic bag ordinance thus far.

SEEDLING GIVE-A-WAY Cara Feeser - Saturday APRIL 25 – Cara received contract, will review and pick out type of seedling. Cara will set up Genius for on-line volunteer signup.

NEW JERSEY'S CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM Amy Mason, Energy Subcommittee - Continue to monitor progress toward an energy aggregation partnership. Will send memo to township administrator regarding ordinance introduction at the first working meeting in January with adoption in March. This would allow for a fall start to the program if all goes well. As a reminder, there is no cost for this program.

PLAN FOR CTEC WORKDAY SATURDAY APRIL 18, 9-noon. • Contact potential volunteers • Start planning task list.

KIRBY MEADOW AND RELATED PARCELS Dan Miller – Parking is not allowed by Kirby Meadow. To attract people to this area, that needs to be changed to allow parking. Suggest adding parking with restrictions such as a time frame. Maintenance is lacking at some Morris County owned open space properties within the township. Per their contract, there is a maintenance agreement, without maintenance, the property becomes unusable.

After much discussion, the committee decided that something needs to be done so that the county will provide the maintenance that is in the agreement. Dan, Dot and Bob need to meet to discuss further.

Amy Mason motioned for the committee to research the position and obligatory of the county's obligations, Dan Miller 2<sup>nd</sup> with all in favor.

#### APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW –

- Arbor Green at Chatham (Skate Park site) on Southern Blvd., Block 48.16, Lot 117.27 (portion). 4-15-19. Application to NJDEP for wetlands general permit GP#1 (Maintenance and repair of existing features) and special activity transition area waiver redevelopment. Proposed construction of two, 2-story residential apartment buildings, a 36-space surface parking lot and ancillary improvements including stormwater management features and site landscaping. Wetlands occur in the rear of the property and beyond into the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. CTEC commented on the application for a wetlands permit for the cell tower behind the skate park. CTEC has no additional comment to the NJDEP at this time but will follow in other boards. **PENDING.**

- Rezoning for affordable housing planned for the lot on Southern Blvd next to the Chatham Club across from the Chatham Hill apartments (Block 128 lot 9, Fairmount Common LLC). Most of the parcel is in a wetland transition area. **PENDING.**

#### NOTES AND ANY OTHER DISCUSSION

- Pilgrim oil pipeline - In September 2019 the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit agreed with arguments made by the New Jersey attorney general that a private company (PennEast) lacked legal authority to seize or condemn state lands in federal court under the 11th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Under the legal doctrine of sovereign immunity, a state cannot be sued by a private company without its consent. Tom Gilbert, campaign director for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, said the ruling makes clear that PennEast seriously overstepped the law in trying to condemn state-owned lands, many preserved in partnership with counties, towns and private land trusts. The PennEast pipeline is a controversial 120-mile project to bring natural gas from Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale into New Jersey and metropolitan markets.

- An oil pipeline is more sinister than a gas pipeline. A gas discharge disperses quickly into the atmosphere; an oil spill poisons the land. - Rumors that Pilgrim is beginning to apply for permits. NOTE that the Township Committee has voted to continue its membership in the coalition of towns contributing to legal fees to fight the pipeline.

- Visit <http://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=af162ec18761444b929957b8c82ab903> to see if the Pilgrim Pipeline goes near your house. The web site was developed by Drew professor Lisa Jordan and her students. The map is also on the EC website. Click anywhere on a map for information about that object.

- Good NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>. Use Internet Explorer.

- Very good Morris County mapping utility at <https://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher/>, hit Map and use the i tool. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer. Search for more detailed information about a parcel at <https://mcweb1.co.morris.nj.us/MCTaxBoard/>. Use Microsoft Internet Explorer for both.

EVENTS - ANJEC EC training: Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions - March 7, 14 & 28. Free for CTEC members.

#### MAIL RECEIVED

- Notices of LOI and General Permit requests
- Newsletters
- Monthly financial report
- Minutes of recent meetings of the Long Hill Township and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions.

ADJOURN 9:24

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary

