

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday January 8, 2019

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:25 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Amy Mason, Dan Miller, Christina Mott, Jessica Romeo, Dot Stillingler, Don Travisano and Township Committee Liaison Tracy Ness. Absent: Matt Palmer.

Also present: Maureen Kelly, Chair Chatham Township Green Team, Kate Murphy, Chair Chatham Boro Environmental Comm, Mary Orloff, Chair Florham Park Environmental Comm, Claire Whitcomb, Chair Madison Environmental Comm.

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 2019 January 2020 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings including the Land Use Subcommittee, join the discussions and participate in projects.

APPROVED DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS FOR 2019 - January 2020 Tuesday February 5, Tuesday March 5, Tuesday April 2, Tuesday May 7, Tuesday June 11 (to avoid election day), NO MEETING IN JULY, Tuesday August 6 (if needed), Tuesday September 10 (avoid Labor Day), Tuesday October 1, Tuesday November 12 (avoid election day), Tuesday December 3, Tuesday January 7, 2020.

RE-ORGANIZATION

Cara Feeser nominated Dot Stillingler as Chairperson and Don Travisano 2nd, with all in favor.

Dot Stillingler nominated Cara Feeser as Vice Chair of CTEC and Don Travisano 2nd, with all in favor.

Don Travisano motioned to approve the December 4, 2018 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Maureen Kelly 2nd, with all in favor.

CONGRATULATIONS to new members Amy Mason (Alternate #1) and Dan Miller (Alternate #2) and returnees who agreed to serve another term. Grateful thanks!

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:33-8:22) M. Kelly, Green Team Chair, J. Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair, Bronze Certification approved for 2018.

Look ahead to 2021 and possible Silver certification. - Actions that count: Joint Library book sale. Possible new actions: solar, electric charging stations, readopting resolutions. –

Reviewed a list of potential actions in need of resubmittal through resolution or ordinance approval, which the Township Committee is very forthcoming with. For future reference, actions may have been completed but never received proper documentation; therefore points were not received, looking towards the future that may help attain silver certification.

Maureen attended an informative grant writing workshop at the library in December. Proposing a grant application consists of a lot of work and research, you must make sure this is something that the community needs and can plan for. Maureen also took a NJ Sustainable webinar on grants.

PLAN FOR SPRING TREE SEEDLING GIVE-A-WAY New Jersey and the Arbor Day Foundation supply free tree seedlings to residents through the New Jersey Tree Recovery Program. Date for us is Saturday April 27 for the Give-A-Way, with pickup of seedlings on Thursday April 25. Anticipate giving away 1000 trees will receive 825 trees through the foundation and purchase an additional 175 at \$0.45 a tree. Improvements to giveaway – promote through social media - have a YouTube link for tree care and planting, also create social media # (hashtag) to follow tree growth progress. Task list to follow.

PLAN FOR SPRING EARTH DAY WORKDAY EVENT - Earth Day 2019 is Monday April 22. Workday will be Saturday April 6. - Project will be improving the path and pond area at the Green Village Pond to make the area more attractive for walking and for pond watching (ducks, turtles, and polliwogs). Pick up trash, spread woodchips and improve footpath, prune invasives, plant native shrubs and flowers, install signs or other amenities. Develop task list and schedule.

PILGRIM PIPELINE - Possibly plan an event, a "Walk the Line" walk along part of the proposed Pilgrim pipeline route, as the New Jersey Conservation Foundation did on the proposed PennEast pipeline route. From the Outdoor Ed Center to near Karlin Drive (about 1.5 miles round trip) the right-of-way passes along Refuge land and there are important environmental features on both sides. - 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> for detailed Pilgrim Pipeline information 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION COLLABORATION WORKGROUP Jessica Romeo (CTEC Green Team Vice Chair) will head a workgroup to explore joint projects with other environmental commissions. Along with Claire Whitcomb (Chair of the Madison Environmental Commission), Kate Murphy (Chair of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission) and Mary Orloff, (Chair of Florham Park Environmental Commission) are discussing possible collaboration among the ECs and how to decide on what kinds of topics are best for multi-town action/education.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- 24A Long Hill Lane, Block 14, lot 62, 9-5-18. Massive wetland violation and dumping of earth onto private property (owned by the Great Swamp Watershed Association). Construction of an access driveway into Long Hill Lane without Township or DEP permits. Earth and logs used to fill wetlands, disturbance of wetlands and transition areas, illegal dumping onto private property, trespassing. Over half of the property is in wetlands and contains two tributaries which drain into the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge 1000 feet downstream. Township construction officer, Township engineer, the NJDEP, and GSWA are investigating. PENDING.

- 446 Green Village Road, Block 144, Lot 50, April 1, 2016, 10-28-17. Application to Board of Adjustment. Reconstruct dwelling using the existing foundation; will comply with 35 foot height limitation but variances needed for proposed 3 stories where 2 ½ stories is allowed. Incomplete on 5/6/16, resubmitted on 10-28-17. This is the unoccupied house on Green Village Road adjacent to Loantaka Brook at the intersection with Britten Road previously owned by R. Gunn with M. Jepsen as the contract purchaser. CTEC has submitted several letters to the DEP about this property concerning its exceptional resource wetlands and the required 300 foot stream buffer. The Board of Adjustment obtained a conservation easement on most of the wetlands. Approved March 15, 2018 with the condition that a conservation easement be placed on the property. CTEC will obtain a copy of the easement. PENDING

REPORTS

- Township Committee Tracy Ness, Township Committee liaison stated she is happy to be part of the Environmental Commission. She will report to and from the TC. CTEC is excited for the willingness and cooperation in the coming year.

- Planning Board Don Travisano, Planning Board liaison; stated he was appointed Planning Board Chair and is excited for positive changes within the PB and CTEC.

- Open Space Workgroup Cara Feeser, liaison to Open Space Committee Reviewing stream buffer requirements in Chatham Township ordinances as part of an Open Space Plan update, Dot will confer with Cara for this.

- Community Education and Outreach Workgroup Jessica Romeo, Head.

Recycle Coach app – <https://solutions.recyclecoach.com>

There will be a recycling presentation at the library (February or April).

Plastic bag recycling program – would like to initiate a program where plastic bags can be eliminated and use recyclable bags. Also, bags to benches program.

Discussed recycling/compost/garbage pickup. Residents are paying for trash pickup twice per week, yet are only putting garbage out once per week but having to pay for twice a week. TC Tracy Ness stated that Chatham Disposal contract expires in 2020 and asked for recommendations and suggestions for improvement.

- Recycling and Pollution Workgroup Christina Mott, Head
 - Collaboration with Madison Environmental Commission to co-host an ANJEC roadshow on plastics pollution. Focus is on discussing the impacts of plastics in our waste stream and environment.
 - * Update on plastic pollution State Legislation
 - * Introduction to stormwater utilities as it relates to blockages in infrastructure and plastics in our waterways
 - * Terracycle's Free Cigarette Recycling Municipal Program

For information on ANJEC roadshows see <http://www.anjec.org/RoadShows.htm>

- Communications and Website Workgroup Cara Feeser, Head – Form subcommittee to rework webpage. Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to C. Feeser. - CTEC email address should be shut down. Mostly spam, waste of CTEC resources. Phone inquiries should go to Greg Laconte who will contact CTEC - this was the previous system which worked well.

- Invasive Species Workgroup M. Palmer, Head -- Possibly plan an event or brochure to promote the removal of the highly invasive Japanese barberry, a host for ticks. Studies have found the larger the number of this plant in an area, the higher the incidence of Lyme disease-carrying ticks. J. Romeo felicitated a talk on ticks last spring. - Spotted lanternfly has appeared in NJ. It is found on Tree of Heaven, black walnut, red maple, and wild grapevines at the edges of wood lines. It feeds on plant juices. Be on the lookout. - Emerald ash borer will eliminate all ash trees. There are small circular silver tags with individual numbers being nailed to ash trees. You can look at several at the entrance to the Green Village Pond Trail on Green Village Rd. The Morris County Park Commission is inventorying ash trees to document the spread of the emerald ash borer and will take down over 10,000 ash trees in Morris County for safety reasons. JCP&L is removing ash trees in its right-of-ways with no plans to replace the trees. Emerald ash borer was discovered in New Jersey in May 2014 in Somerset County. Infestations throughout the U.S. and Canada have killed tens of millions of ash trees since 2002. Look for little D-shaped holes in the tree bark. - Could the NY State DEC plan to control invasive species be a model for NJ. - The Township model conservation easement document does in fact allow limited control of invasive species.

NOTES AND ANY OTHER DISCUSSION

- Clearing snags from the Passaic River between White Bridge Road and Stanley Park has come up for discussion. CTEC might want to support asking the Morris County Mosquito Control Commission to consider at least partial snag removal. Also GSWA might be interested. CTEC's role would be to support and possibly publicize the project. Developing a constituency for the river would be helped by increasing recreational opportunities.

- New and very 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.

RECENT LETTERS SENT • February 2018. Memo to Board of Adjustment regarding unauthorized clearcutting on a Club Road parcel and request for conservation easement on the wetland transition area portion. Memo to Board of Adjustment requesting conservation easement on portion of a property being developed on Green Village Road which is almost entirely wetlands or transition areas.

EVENTS • Regional Roundtable & Networking Information Session Thursday, February 7th, Morris Township Making Sense of the Newest Stormwater Rules Thursday, February 7, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Frelinghuysen Arboretum-Auditorium 353 E. Hanover Avenue, Morris Township Please join Morris County Environmental Commissions, Green Teams, Shade Tree Commissions and ANJEC Staff to discuss impacts of the new NJDEP storm water rules. Agenda Includes: Introduction and discussion on the latest NJDEP storm water regulations and how they will impact your municipality Information sharing session on local plastic pollution initiatives networking opportunity Registration required for this FREE Program: Email ANJEC (info@anjec.org) to register, or call 973-539-7547

- EC training coming up. Free for CTEC members. "Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions", Saturday, March 2, Fairlawn, NJ; Saturday, March 9 – Bridgewater, NJ; Saturday, March 16 – West Deptford. 9am -1:30pm. More details coming soon. Watch your email or contact ANJEC at info@anjec.org, www.anjec.org or 973-539-7547. Every CTEC member should attend at least once.

MAIL RECEIVED -Notice of scoping hearing to legalize Green Acres land that was used for cell towers.
Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m., Township municipal building
- ANJEC membership renewal form for 2019

Newsletters - Monthly financial report - Minutes of recent meetings of the Long Hill Township and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions

ADJOURN 9:30

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary