

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday January 9, 2018

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:35 pm on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Frank Esposito, Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Jessica Romeo, Dot Stillinger, Steve Carroll Green Team Subcommittee member and Township Committee Liaison Karen Swartz. Absent: Peter Gallagher, Matt Palmer, and Don Trivisano.

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 2018 January 2019 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 IN 2018 AND JANUARY 2019 Tuesday February 6, Tuesday March 6, Tuesday April 3, Tuesday May 1, Tuesday June 12 (avoid Primary Election day), no meeting in July, Tuesday August 7, Tuesday September 11 (avoid Labor Day), Tuesday October 2, Tuesday November 13 (avoid Election Day), Tuesday December 4, Tuesday January 8, 2019.

RE-ORGANIZATION

Dot Stillinger nominated Cara Feeser and Vice Chair of CTEC and Frank Esposito 2nd, with all in favor.
Dot Stillinger nominated Maureen Kelly as Green Team Chair and Frank Esposito 2nd, with all in favor.

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the December 5, 2017 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Cara Feeser 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:43-8:07) M. Kelly, Green Team Chair, J. Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair, Steve Carroll-member GT Subcommittee.

- Discussed recertification actions due June 2018.

Karen Swartz will propose TC adoption of Land Use Pledge resolution for 2018. Additional items discussed towards recertification included; EC 2017 annual report; medicine drop-off report, recycling compactor picture. Cara is proposing working on new actions and will reach out to community volunteers.

PILGRIM PIPELINE

- Excellent pipeline regulation ordinance titled "Watershed Protection" was adopted by the Township Committee on 12/14/17. Prohibits hazardous substance pipelines in the Great Swamp watershed.

- Visit <http://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=af162ec18761444b929957b8c82ab903> for detailed 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.

- On the subject of hazardous substances in surface water, we might want to send a letter to Rodney Frelinghuysen opposing offshore drilling.

BEARS AND FOXES

- Wild Neighbors presentation, Wed. Jan. 24, 7 PM at The Library of the Chathams.

Have you seen a fox in your neighborhood? A deer in your yard? Or a bear running into the woods? Please join the Chatham Township and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions for a talk with the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center on WILD animals, co-existing with our wild neighbors and friends. Stephanie Singer from the Outdoor Education Center will delve in to who our animal neighbors are, what behaviors we can expect from them, and how we can be good, responsible neighbors and co-exist peacefully with our WILD friends. The talk is geared towards adults, but residents of all ages are welcome.

- Help protect bears and their human fellow planet dwellers! Leaving bird seed or garbage cans outside can lead to bears, but also foxes, coyotes, possums, raccoons, mice. How hard can it be to have a bear-proof lid. Remember: a fed bear is a dead bear.

RIVER CLEANUP - WORKDAY 2018 SATURDAY APRIL 21

- Suggest date of riverbank meeting at Steve Clymer's house to Sat. January 27 at 9 AM.
- Discussed cleanup along the River Trail and a canoe/kayak component. Steve Clymer and Mike and Maureen Kelly are chief motivators. Time: participate any time between 9-noon. Discussed draft Task List. River Trail cleanup will be suitable for families. Stream cleanup will be restricted to those over 18 - must sign in and be checked for life jacket, no chain saws. Needed: research into which government entities have responsibility for the river.

GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

- Boy Scout Troop 8, including 6 adults and 8 scouts, spent several hours on Sunday, Nov. 19, improving the Green Village Pond trail by spreading woodchips, clipping brambles and picking up trash. See the press release and photo on the CTEC website. Note that the GVP trail gives easy access to the Kirby Meadow, an ideal spot for birdwatching.
- An Eagle Scout candidate, Ethan Atkins, plans to build a bench and kiosk at the trailhead on Green Village Road.
- The Park Commission will work on trails in the Oak Knoll region after it acquires final title to the Platt property. A gravel parking area is planned for the Platt property next to the post office.
- Volunteers continue to work on trail improvement and cleanup of dump material along the footpath. Projects are available for Scouts and other service groups. The CTEC goal is to extend the trail, possibly marking features for a nature walk, from Green Village Road to the Kirby meadow, and finally to create a loop trail around the meadow.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- 9 Mountainview Road, Steven & Barbara Klemm, Block 54, Lot 10, 9-7-17. Incomplete 10-12-17. Application to Planning Board for minor subdivision. Last year the property was rezoned R-4 (1/4 acre) from R-3 (1/2 acre). It is 1/2 acre in size. Steep slopes (14 foot drop from property line on Chestnut Rd. to property line on Mountainview Rd.), drains into the Great Swamp at the end of Mountainview Rd.

PENDING.

- 446 Green Village Road, Mads & Sari Jepsen, 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 currently unoccupied house on Green Village Road adjacent to Loantaka Brook at the intersection with Britten Road previously owned by R. Gunn. CTEC has submitted several letters to the DEP about this property concerning its exceptional resource wetlands and the required 300 foot stream buffer.

PENDING.

11 Sunset Drive, Golden River Homes LLC, Block 61, Lot 16. 10-16-17. Application to Board of Adjustment, requesting variances for construction of a single family home. Steep slopes, drains to Great Swamp, previous application to BOA was denied. CTEC will follow this application. **PENDING.**

- 341 Green Village Road, Aleksandra Bury, Block 48.17, Lot 133. Application to the Board of Adjustment requesting front yard and side yard setback variances for a reconstruction on existing foundation. Incomplete on 8/14/17. A tributary of Black Brook almost bisects the property, wetlands are found on the rear of the property, rear property line adjoins Chatham Township property, which is almost all wetlands. CTEC will follow this application. **PENDING.**

REPORTS

• EC Facebook page C. Feeser. Discussed deciphering what articles can be placed on page. Fb page continues to grow and attract new interest.

• Pesticide Reduction Subcommittee. Cara will be working on updating the Pesticide Brochure and forward to Board of Health. C. Feeser, Chair

• Planning Board

D. Travisano, Planning Board liaison. The Township Committee approved the rezoning of the Dixiedale tract for up to 54 townhouse units as well as large lot single family houses since it furthers several parts of the Master Plan including parts of the Conservation Element.

- Township Committee K. Swartz, Township Committee liaison and liaison to DPW and Public Safety – Re-org meeting was 1/4/18.
- Open Space Committee - Cara Feeser, Chair.
 - Proposal to build 54 market rate units on Dixiedale Farm on the slope across from the existing Chatham Glen condos, a substantial increase in density from the currently allowed 13 single family homes, in exchange for building and maintaining 24 affordable rental units on the skate park and a PILOT agreement. Sterling/Sun Homes hopes the Township will approve this deal. Dixiedale has been rezoned for increased density. Endangered species have been found in the general area.
- Communications Committee - F. Esposito, Chair. – Will updated for 2018.
- Website Review - F. Esposito, CTEC webmaster. Continues to review and keep current.
- Recycling Committee - F. Esposito, CTEC recycling chair, contacts Township and County recycling officials to obtain information and bring it back to the EC for discussion.
 - Tonnage report received from MUA lags behind as it takes time to compile report. Even though recycling is up, the tonnage report shows a reduction in tonnage collected. Typical reasons for lower tonnage is – people are not receiving/purchasing newspaper (reading online); not as many glass products – more plastic is used than glass, plastic is thinner - weighs less: ex: water bottles. MUA proposing electronic waste day in Chatham.
- Community Education and Outreach Committee. F. Esposito, Chair. Emails have decreased; receiving mostly spam. Discussed the removal of email, but will still continue monitoring for now.

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- **January 2018.** Letter to Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen – expressing opposing offshore drilling. Dot motion to approve letter, and Frank Esposito 2nd, with all in favor.
- 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 <http://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher.html>, 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 <http://mcweb1.co.morris.nj.us/MCTaxBoard/>. Use Microsoft Internet Explorer for both.
- Possible projects for grants. Trails on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area and Kirby Meadow, Nash Field to Green Village Road.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- May 2017. Letter to the NJDEP regarding an application for vegetation removal on steep slopes in a wetland transition area.
- February 2017. Second memo to Board of Adjustment regarding a development application on Club Road concerning excessive tree removal and requesting a conservation easement on a downslope area.
- January 2017. Two memos to NJDEP urging care on delineating wetlands and granting permits on two properties, one on Loantaka Lane South and one on Green Village Road. Memo to Board of Adjustment regarding a development application on Club Road concerning excessive tree removal and requesting a conservation easement on a downslope area.

EVENTS

- Wild Neighbors presentation, Wed. Jan. 24, 7 PM, at The Library of the Chathams. Free.
- Mayors' Climate Summit – Feb. 3, 9 am – 1:30 pm Rutgers University Bloustein School of Plan/Zoning

MAIL RECEIVED

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

ADJOURN 9:05
 Carolyn Scannelli
 Minutes Secretary