

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:33 pm on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, Frank Esposito, Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Dot Stillinger and Township Liaison Karen Swartz. Absent: Peter Gallagher, Matt Palmer and Don Travisano. Also in attendance, Township Resident Jennifer Matthews.

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 2017 and January 2018 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship-nj.gov. 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 2017 AND JANUARY 2018
January 10, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 13, July NO MEETING, August 1, September 12 (to avoid Labor Day weekend), October 3, November 14 (to avoid Election Day), December 5, and January 9.

Steve Carroll motioned to approve the December 6, 2016 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Frank Esposito 2nd, with all in favor.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Township resident Jennifer Matthews spoke regarding promoting weekly recycling pickup. After much discussion, at this time weekly recycling pickup is not needed. Committee women Karen Swartz stated that it must be a need, not a want. All agreed that more education on recycling would be most effective.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (8:25-8:50) S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

Steve Carroll proposed attaining Sustainable Jersey points through a community education and outreach project regarding educating the residents on recycling. Jennifer Matthews and Cara Feeser agreed to work with Steve. Cara Feeser suggested "reduction of pesticides", as another action item to work towards. Cara will revisit a program established in 2010, which CTEC promoted a "pesticide free zone" campaign by displaying pesticide free zone ladybug signs at each of its six playgrounds, and also encouraged residents to do the same. Cara will contact DPW regarding field and township property use of pesticides.

DRINKING WATER QUALITY - REVIEW RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR HIGHLANDS PRESERVATION – NO ACTION TAKEN AT THIS MEETING; KEEP ON AGENDA

CTEC members are encouraged to review the Highlands Coalition resolution for possible adoption by CTEC and recommendation to the Township Committee for their passage of the resolution.

PILGRIM PIPELINE UPDATE – NO ACTION TAKEN AT THIS MEETING; KEEP ON AGENDA

Current status of independent environmental resources assessment being prepared by Princeton Hydro and paid for by a coalition of towns along the proposed pipeline. Donations for advocacy against the Pipeline are being accepted by the Great Swamp Watershed Association, which is 501(c)(3) and can receive contributions which are tax deductible to the donor. CAPP (Citizens Against Pilgrim Pipeline) can't since it is not incorporated. Make checks out to GSWA and write on the check that it is restricted for use by CAPP with oversight by GSWA.

Visit <http://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=af162ec18761444b929957b8c82ab903> for awesome Pipeline information developed by Drew professor Lisa Jordan and her students. Click anywhere on a map for information about that object.

WEBSITE REVIEW

F. Esposito, CTEC webmaster. Webpage up to date. All agreed Mayor Ritter did a great job on the webpage.

GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

- Volunteers continue to work on trail improvement and cleanup of dump. Projects are available for Scouts and other service groups. The 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

- Block 15, Lot 7, 16 Club Rd., December 2016, Bushell. Application to Board of Adjustment for variances to build a single family home on a currently vacant 0.9 acre lot. Steep slopes are currently well-vegetated so stormwater from Club Road is being naturally controlled. Lot drains across River Road into the Morris County Passaic River Park and into the Passaic River. **Approved comment letter to Board of Adjustment. Frank Esposito motioned to approve letter, with minor edits if needed and Maureen Kelly 2nd with all in favor.**
- Block 144, Lot 39.3, 348 Green Village Rd., Oct. 13, 2016, Cheney. Application to NJDEP for wetlands individual permit, Flood Hazard individual permit, FW GP #10A (very minor road crossing). Property backs up to GVPCA, has an access easement along the stream running along the west property line, stream drains almost directly into GSNWR. **Approved comment letter to NJDEP. Frank Esposito motioned to approve letter, with minor edits if needed and Maureen Kelly 2nd with all in favor.**
- Block 139, Lot 16, 11 Loantaka Lane South, October 24, 2016, Patel, application to NJDEP for LOI and various general wetlands permits to demolish existing house and construct a new house with an expansion of less than 750 sq. ft. Much of the lot is wetlands, which drain to Loantaka Brook. CTEC has commented on other lots in this area. **Approve comment letter to NJDEP. Frank Esposito motioned to approve letter, with minor edits if needed and Maureen Kelly 2nd with all in favor.**
- Block 144, Lot 50, 446 Green Village Road, April 1, 2016, Mads & Sari Jepsen. 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. 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 exceptional resource wetlands and the required 300 foot stream buffer. **PENDING.**
- Block 115, Lot 18, 31 Gates Ave., Nov. 28, 2016, Daingerfield, application to NJDEP for wetlands general permit for residential addition of less than 750 sq. ft. in wetlands or transition areas. The construction will be within previously disturbed areas. No CTEC comment needed. DEP approved application. **CLOSED.**

REPORTS

- Water Quality Subcommittee - P. Gallagher, Chair

Dot Stillinger will check to use town hall meeting room going forward. CTEC members discussed possibly eliminating the Sept 14 date or combining with November. Possibly coordinate with ANJEC and circulate invitations to Ten Towns.

Proposed schedule of future events:

- Event 1: Thursday, March 16 - (Policy) panel discussion on how the new Presidential administration/EPA appointments will shape national Drinking Water policy and how quality specifications are set for old and new contaminants
- Event 2: Saturday in June - (Infrastructure) tour of the NJ American Water treatment plant in Short Hills
- Event 3: Thursday, Sept 14 - (Technology) panel discussion on drinking water quality, what are contaminants of risk today, technology available to filter your water (similar to the 2016 event)

- Event 4: Thursday, Nov 2 - (Policy) panel discussion on the NJ Governor election and candidate positions on environment/drinking water quality

- Planning Board - D. Travisano, Planning Board liaison.

The Planning Board has been directed by the Township Committee to investigate whether or not the skate park area should be designated "an area in need of redevelopment." Frank Banisch, Planning Board professional planner, will prepare a report. There will have to be a public hearing before the Planning Board determination. "Before proceeding to a public hearing on the matter, the planning board shall prepare a map showing the boundaries of the proposed redevelopment area and the location of the various parcels of property included therein. There shall be appended to the map a statement setting forth the basis for the investigation." Also note section 40A:12A-40 of the attached document "Local Redevelopment and Housing Law" (40a_12a_1) regarding payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) by the redevelopment agency.

- Township Committee and DPW -Liaison Karen Swartz. The reorganization meeting was held on January 5, 2017, for the appointment of new officers. Karen stated that in addition to the Environmental Commission, she is now the liaison for Public Works and Board of Public Utilities. The Mayor is now the liaison for Board of Health.

- Open Space Committee - Cara Feeser, Chair

- Fenske property, 18 +/- vacant acres, on Southern Boulevard (Block 48.16, Lot 121) is for sale. Most of the property is wetlands or transition areas. Property backs up to the Refuge and is adjacent to Nash Field. Asking price is \$3M.

- Communications Committee - F. Esposito, Chair

Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the information to F. Esposito.

- Recycling Committee - F. Esposito, Chair.

- Waiting on trash compactor at Tanglewood that will be provided to the Township by the MCMUA at no extra cost to the town. It would replace all but one of the dumpsters. Without weekly pickup Tanglewood is the option many people will use.

- Invasive Species Subcommittee - M. Palmer, Chair

- Emerald ash borer comes to New Jersey. Committee women Karen Swartz inquired about the Ash trees and it was stated that the township forester could be asked to create an inventory of township owned ash trees. Discussion ensued regarding prevention and types of management of ash trees. (<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/emeraldashborer.html>). 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.

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- 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 or Advanced Data Search. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer.

- Possible projects for grants. Trails on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area and former Kirby tract and Nash Field to Green Village Road.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- May 2016. Memo to Planning Board regarding disturbances of conservation easements in the High Gate subdivision. Letter to NJDEP urging care in delineating and classifying wetlands on a property on Loantaka Lane South.

- March 2016. Letter to PSE&G urging great care in removing vegetation in powerline rights-of-way.

- February 2016. Memo to Board of Adjustment regarding a proposed steep slope disturbance.

- January 2016. Two letters to NJDEP concerning applications for LOI.

EVENTS

- Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7:30 PM at the library. Loantaka Chapter of Sierra Club presents a program on the Pilgrim Pipeline. Speaker is Matt Smith, head of Food and Water Watch, which is taking an active role in opposing the Pipeline.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill Environmental Commission.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:09

Carolyn Scannelli