

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Mike Kelly, Frank Esposito, Steve Carroll, M. Murray, M. Schaaf, Dot Stillinger, Don Travisano, and Township Committee Liaison Curt Ritter. Absent Shankar Krishnan, Matt Palmer.

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 2014 and January 2015 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, join the discussions and participate in projects.

#### CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2014 AND JANUARY 2015

Every first Tuesday February through December 2014 and the second Tuesday in January 2015.

February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July NO MEETING, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2 in 2014 and January 13 in 2015.

#### Roll Call

Dot Stillinger asked for a nomination for Chairperson. Steve Carroll nominated Dot Stillinger, Don Travisano seconded the nomination. The voice vote was unanimous. Dot Stillinger nominated Steve Carroll for Vice chair, Frank Esposito seconded the nomination. The voice vote was unanimous.

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the December 3, 2013 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Don Travisano 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

#### GREEN TEAM MEETING 7:29 – 7:51

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

GREEN TEAM MEETING – Continued discussing sustainable jersey points for 2016.

Geo thermal heating at the Red School House is not conducive. Proposed attaining SJ points by adding community garden. Webinar 1/12/14 to introduce new actions. Also, discussed styrofoam recycling, more information is needed, and a prescription drug drop off program.

#### DISCUSSION

Frank Esposito will prepare a draft CTEC budget.

#### APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. Traver, 509 Shunpike Rd., Block 128, Lot 14, near Long Hill Chapel. 12-18-13. Application to NJDEP for an LOI. Owner proposes to subdivide the one-acre lot and construct a new house. Property is 1.4 acres in R-3 (1/2 acre) zone. Rear property line lies in wetlands which drain to the Great Swamp so should be classified as exceptional resource and hence require a 150 foot transition area. The rear third of the property is in the transition area. A wetlands Transition Area Waiver will be necessary. Approve letter to the NJDEP. S. Carroll motioned to send letter to NJDEP, F. Esposito 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

NEW. Warren, 23 Susan Drive, Block 20 Lot 20. 12-2-13. Application to Board of Adjustment for Minimum front yard, Structural Retaining Wall, Disturbance of steep slopes, change in grade, height and structural retaining walls, variances to construct a new single family dwelling. A stop work order was issued because of violations of the steep slope ordinance and disturbances in the conservation easement. New approvals from the Board of Adjustment are required. A site visit by the Board of Adjustment was conducted on January 11. Approve memo to Board of Adjustment. S. Carroll motioned to send memo to the Board of Adjustment, along with the Township Committee and Planning Board, and M. Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

PENDING. Gunn, 446 Green Village Rd., Block 144, Lot 50. Application to NJDEP dated 9-30-13 by R. Gunn for a General Permit #8 for disturbance of up to 750 sf for clearing of vegetation, placement of pavement and expansion of building. DEP approved 9-30-13. See below.

PENDING. Gunn, 446 Green Village Rd., Block 144, Lot 50. Application to NJDEP dated 8-5-13 by R. Gunn for Floodway and Flood Hazard Area verifications. Letter to NJDEP has been sent concerning both Gunn applications.

PENDING. Bhee properties, Block 61, Lot 10, 697 Fairmount Ave. Application to Planning Board to subdivide an acre property into two 1/2-acre lots in the R-3 (1/2-acre) zone. Fifty-foot drop from Sunset Drive to Fairmount Ave. Proposed usable lot area is only half of that required for each lot. Variances requested for very large deviations from required slope disturbances. Soil is loose and depth to bedrock is small so much potential for erosion and stormwater runoff. Proposed driveways now exit onto Fairmount Avenue instead of Sunset Drive. Morris County Planning Board is not in favor of the application as it stands.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance. The Refuge under no circumstances would consider acquiring it until the cleanup has been completed and all liability has been extinguished. It has been declared "an area in need of redevelopment" by the Township Committee. What does that mean for conservation purposes?

## REPORTS

Planning Board report. Bhee application should be finalized hopefully in February. New chair and Vice chair have been selected. Kathy Abbott is the Planning Board liaison. The Circulation Plan should include a pedestrian and bike path. Green Checklist has been finalized and will be sent to the TC to be adopted. D. Travisano.

Township Committee report. C. Ritter, Township Committee liaison.

Open Space Committee report. M. Schaaf. Open Space Committee liaison. 29 trees, left over from the tree sale are available to be planted in open space areas.

Communications Committee report. Frank will be attending a recycling meeting. CTEC should express interest in the "rocket composter" in order to educate others who may be interested in it. F. Esposito, Chair.

Recycling Committee report.

- Frequency and cost of recycle pickups is being reviewed. Publicize single stream. Compare trash tonnage with recycles tonnage. CTEC website will be pruned of outdated material. M. Schaaf, F. Esposito, Chair.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. Consider hosting a screening of "Bag It" a film about plastics and how it effects the environment. Incorporate this film with earthday or greenfair event.

- CTEC receives several e-mails every day. F. Esposito responds and archives the messages.

- Mulch-mow leaves and leave on lawn. Put article from NY Times on website. Pursue educational outreach on this topic. M. Kelly, M. Schaaf, and F. Esposito, Chair.

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Legal Issues Education Committee meeting was held on on 1-6-14. Next meeting Monday Jan. 27 at 7 PM. All, including members of the community, are welcome.

Notes on LI Meeting on Monday, January 6, 2014, 7 PM at the Chatham Township Municipal Building

Attending: George Crimmins, Dot Stillinger, Curt Ritter, Mike Kelly, Steve Carroll, Don Travisano.

Discussion on the slope disturbance and violation of conservation easement on 23 Susan Drive.

Dot will circulate for comments a draft CTEC memo to Board of Adjustment regarding 23 Susan Drive.

Discussion on requiring applications to be submitted in pdf so fewer paper copies (currently, 25 are required) will be needed.

That would be cheaper for the applicant and cut down on paper. Dot will check which towns submit applications in pdf or cad. If all documents were submitted in pdf it would make it easier to circulate plans and reports. The Township has already taken a step in this direction:

### *Electronic submission of plans*

*30-62.7 Submission Requirements Applicable to All Plats and Plans.*

*A survey of the entire tract or property, prepared by a New Jersey licensed surveyor, showing the location of the improvements proposed or the portion to be divided therefrom, giving all distances and showing all roads abutting or traversing the property. Development boundaries shall be clearly delineated. At a minimum, two (2) corners of the proposed plan or plat shall have horizontal coordinates and vertical values shown, based upon municipal monumentation. Municipal monumentation is based upon horizontal coordinates of the New Jersey System of Plane Coordinates (NJSPC NAD, 83) and vertical values of the North American Vertical Datum (NAVD, 88). If municipal monumentation is not available, other monumentation having values of these datums can be used. Monument identification and associated values must be noted on the plan or plat. The plan or plat shall be prepared in an electronic format having horizontal and vertical values as outlined above suitable for import of the drawing files into the Township of Chatham GIS and the Morris County GIS systems. (Ord. No. 2007-10 § 1)*

Liability for people volunteering or hiking on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area. Dot will get a copy of the GSWA form used for volunteer workers on the Great Swamp Watershed Association management areas. George will look into more details on the Township's liability. Except in case of gross negligence the Township is mostly immune. George says that in general towns have very limited liability for the activities CTEC would do or hikers would do on the GVPKA. But the town is not immune if there is a dangerous condition.

Steve will contact Carl Woodward and Bill O'Connor to find out more about what declaring Rolling Knolls "an area in need of redevelopment" means. It does mean the town has more control over what gets developed there than if an applicant only needed to get approvals from the Planning Board. Additional details would be instructive.

How do current stream buffer ordinances align? NJDEP requires 50 foot buffers at a minimum in the Great Swamp watershed although many streams require a 300 foot buffer because they drain into the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. LIC members will look into buffer requirements in the Township ordinances and in the NJDEP regulations. How to achieve better enforcement?

Bears. Deer management has become less of a problem while bears are becoming more so. There is a Township standing committee concerned with wildlife management issues. Should that committee and CTEC coordinate a bear program? The bears on Huron Drive have become a hazard to school children waiting for the school bus.

There has been no new activity on the application for an LOI on the Loantaka Lane South property since the NJDEP issued a Letter of Deficiency last fall. Note that there has been contention over developing this property for years. There is a pointed report from John Ruschke from 2008 in the Township file, which by the way is public information. Ask Greg any time to point you to the wetlands application filing cabinet. Application will be dropped from the agenda.

The Sunset Lake group has not contacted CTEC again. Issue will be dropped from the agenda.

SET DATE FOR NEXT LIC MEETING  
Monday, January 27, 2014

ADJOURNED AT 8 PM. dks

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#### NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- GSWA stream team volunteer monitoring a tributary of Black Brook noticed disturbances in the stream on the McDonFen property on Southern Boulevard. Shovel marks and tire tracks were observed on the side of the bank and dredge spoils had been deposited on the top of the bank. No wetlands permits had been issued. Township Engineer has issued a summons for failure to obtain a lot grading plan.
- Desnagging the Passaic River. Chatham Township did not join the other 5 nearby river towns in applying for a joint grant.
- Parking lots at Colony Pool and high school. • Student carpooling.
- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District ([www.mescd.org/](http://www.mescd.org/)) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, may be the only Morris County town that assumes the responsibility for soil and erosion instead of leaving it to the county.
- Complete Streets. K. Abbott.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

#### RECENT LETTERS SENT

- November 2013. Letter to NJDEP concerning Gunn application for wetlands permits on property on Green Village Road.
- October 2013. Report sent by e-mail to Sunset Lake Association about observations during CTEC property walk with questions and suggestions.

#### EVENTS

- M. Kelly and K. Abbott gave the Sapling Sale presentation in Montclair on Dec. 5.
- Friday, January 24, 2014, 10 am - 12:30 pm. Capitol Day with ANJEC, State House Annex, Trenton, NJ. Free for CTEC members.
- The Rutgers Environmental Stewards Training Program will have new sessions of its course starting in January 2014 in locations around New Jersey. The Program provides training and experience that equips participants to contribute effectively to finding solutions for environmental problems in their communities. <http://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/Contacts.htm>. S. Carroll took the course and can comment.

#### MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

#### ADJOURN

9:03

Carolyn Scannelli