

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday February 5, 2019

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:20 pm on Tuesday, February 5, 2019, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Amy Mason, Christina Mott, Dot Stillinger, and Township Committee Liaison Tracy Ness. Absent: Dan Miller, Matt Palmer, Jessica Romeo and Don Trivisano.

Also present: Maureen Kelly, Chair Chatham Township Green Team and Township Residents Marty and 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 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.

Christina Mott motioned to approve the January 8, 2019 CTEC with a minor edit and Green Team minutes and Cara Feeser 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING - M. Kelly, Green Team Chair, J. Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair, Bronze Certification approved for 2018.
Look ahead to 2021 and possible Silver certification.

PSE&G due to grant deadline of Feb. 15, the Green Team will explore for next year opportunities.
NJ American Water Grant – Cara Feeser will check into and report.

SPRING TREE SEEDLING GIVE-A-WAY Saturday, April 27 New Jersey and the Arbor Day Foundation supply free tree seedlings to residents through the New Jersey Tree Recovery Program. Developing task list and schedule.

SPRING EARTH DAY WORKDAY EVENT – Saturday, April 6 - Earth Day 2019 is Monday April 22. Project will be improve 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 invasive, plant native shrubs and flowers, install signs or other amenities. Developing task list and schedule, contacting clubs and scouts.

OFFSHORE DRILLING – Consider letter/resolution to State legislators. Jessica Romeo to research for discussion at next monthly meeting.

PILGRIM OIL PIPELINE –Planning "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 where the right-of-way turns south (about 1.5 miles round trip) the ROW passes along Refuge land and there are important environmental features on both sides. 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.

<http://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=af162ec18761444b929957b8c82ab903> for detailed Pilgrim Pipeline information developed by Drew professor Lisa Jordan and her students.

Christina Mott motioned to approve a walk in late February, at the proposed Pilgrim pipeline route and Cara Feeser 2nd, with all in favor. Dot will chair and put out press release.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION COLLABORATION WORKGROUP Jessica Romeo (CTEC Green Team Vice Chair) Next meeting March 2 at the Library of the Chatham. Discuss banning plastics bags, straws, Styrofoam by reviewing other town's ordinances where this is in effect.

PASSAIC RIVER SNAG REMOVAL 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. Dot Stillingier motioned and Cara Feeser 2nd, with all in favor that CTEC supports a limited amount of snag removal as long as no use of heavy machinery or any disturbance that would require a permit.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- Passaic River County Park (access on River Rd.), Greenvest, LLC and Morris County, Block 44, Lots 2 & 4, Jan. 29, 2019. Application to NJDEP for wetland GP#16 and FHA (Flood Hazard Area) GP#4 for riparian zone enhancement. Companies and developers that need to repair (mitigate) their damage to wetlands but can't do so on site pay another organization do it elsewhere. Greenvest is such an organization. It will be interesting to see the results. No action by CTEC required. **CLOSED**.

- 1 Crestwood Drive, Block 70, Lot 33, January 7, 2019. Application to NJDEP for wetlands general permit GP#8 (750 square foot disturbance of wetland buffer for house addition). There actually are wetlands near the top of that ridge, left over from glacial activity 10,000 years ago. The springs drain down to Wynwood Rd. and Southern Blvd. No action by CTEC required. **CLOSED**.

- 324 Southern Blvd., Block 127.01, Lot 1, January 15, 2019. Application to NJDEP for GP#8 and GP#2 (disturbance for the construction and/or maintenance of an underground utility line). Many properties along Southern Blvd. are within 150 feet (the buffer requirement) of the extensive wetlands across the street which drain into the Great Swamp. No action by CTEC required. **CLOSED**.

- PSE&G rights-of-way (ROWS), January 10, 2019. Application to NJDEP for a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit for the Maintenance of Existing PSE&G Natural Gas Transmission System Rights-of-Way to Permit Selective Herbicide Application within Riparian Zones (areas bordering a stream or river). From the application notice: "PSE&G proposes the use of selective herbicide application on incompatible vegetation within riparian zones. Selective herbicide is a low impact method of vegetation removal. This is because it is a targeted method affecting individual plants. The square footage of impact per treatment location will be negligible; allowing the vegetative community to remain intact. This type of treatment prevents disturbance to the overall riparian zone." This bears looking into since contractors are occasionally poorly supervised resulting in excessive disturbance. Utility ROWS are important, and often the only, wildlife habitats in many areas. **PENDING**. CTEC discussed the replanting in the right-of-way and reviewed letter to NJDEP & BPU. Christina Mott motioned to approve letter and Cara Feeser 2nd with all in favor.

- 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 has obtained a copy of the easement. **PENDING**.

REPORTS

- Township Committee Tracy Ness, Township Committee – township will be updating their webpage using City Solutions. Affordable housing secondary hearing for Dixie date remediation. TC will ask Planning board to look at Tree ordinance.

- Open Space Workgroup Cara Feeser – meeting date to be determined.

- Recycling and Pollution Workgroup

Christina Mott, Head - Collaboration with Madison Environmental Commission to co-host an ANJEC roadshow on plastics pollution on May 16. John McKeon is available to kick off the program. The audience is ECs, Mayors and Town Councils. Focus is on discussing the impacts of plastics in our waste stream and environment. Agenda Includes: * Importance of local ordinances on changing behaviors and introduction of ANJEC's Model Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance * 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>.

- Community Education and Outreach Workgroup Jessica Romeo, Head.

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

Recycling 101 with Liz Sweedy from the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA)

February 19, 2019 6:30-8pm

Library of the Chathams, 214 Main Street in Chatham NJ

- Communications and Website Workgroup Cara Feeser, Head –

Subcommittee of Dot and Cara will rework & review webpage for items to change or eliminate,

NOTES AND ANY OTHER 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 <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 2019. Letter to NJDEP & BPU - PSE&G application Dated 1/16/19. For flood hazard area individual permit for the maintenance of Existing PSE&G natural gas Transmission System Rights of Way to Permit Selective Herbicide Application within Riparian Zones.

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.

- May 16, ANJEC roadshow on plastics pollution. John McKeon will kick it off. More info coming.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Notice of LOI and general permit requests

- 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 9:00

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary