

Chatham Township Environmental Commission  
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600  
Minutes of the Tuesday February 6, 2018

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:25 pm on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Jessica Romeo, Dot Stillinger, Steve Carroll Green Team Subcommittee and Township Committee Liaison Karen Swartz and Township Resident Christina Mott Absent: Frank Esposito, Peter Gallagher, Matt Palmer, and Don Travisano.

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](http://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.

Maureen Kelly motioned to approve the January 9, 2018 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Jessica Romeo 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:26-7:51) M. Kelly, Green Team Chair, J. Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair, Steve Carroll-member GT Subcommittee.

- Discussed recertification actions due June 2018. Will look into possible action points for library book sale and town wide shred event. Township Committee passed Resolution supporting Green Team and Sustainable Land Use. Cara will check into having a swap exchange event.

#### 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, was well attended by over a dozen adults and several children.

- Review and comment on recap.

- 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. Cara would like to add this information to CTEC Facebook page.

Idea for next event – ticks!

#### NJ AMERICAN GRANT

Discussed NJ American grant opportunity. Members will give some thought for this opportunity. Possibly partner with Long Hill Township.

To qualify, proposed projects must:

- Be located within New Jersey American Water's service area
- Address a source water or watershed protection in the community
- Be completed between May 1, 2018 and November 30, 2018
- Be a new or innovative program for the community, or serve as a significant expansion to an existing program
- Be carried out by a formal or informal partnership between two or more organizations
- Provide evidence of sustainability (continued existence after the grant monies are utilized)

- Salaries and compensation for support of a project or program are ineligible for the grant  
See <https://amwater.com/njaw/news-community/environmental-grant-program>.

#### RIVER CLEANUP WORKDAY 2018

- Riverbank meeting at Steve Clymer's house on Sat. January 27 was attended by M. Kelly, D. Stillinger, J. Lockwood-White, S. Clymer, K. Abbott, F. Stillinger. Date of April 21 was agreed on, boat put-in will be Oakwood Park in New Providence.
- Discuss cleanup along the River Trail and the canoe/kayak component. Steve Clymer and Mike and Maureen Kelly are chief motivators. Date will be Saturday April 21 (the day before Earth Day). Time: participate any time between 9-noon. Discuss 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.

WEBSITE REVIEW - F. Esposito, CTEC webmaster.

#### GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

- Joe Basralian, Open Space Chair and volunteers continue to work on trail improvement and cleanup. Projects are available for Scouts and other service groups.

#### APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- 9 Mountainview Road, Steven & Barbara Klemp, 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. **APPROVED/CLOSED**

- 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 1/2 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**. Site visit on 2/3/18; CTEC will ask for a conservation easement on the wetlands. Memo will be drafted.

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**.

- 36 Dellwood Avenue, Block: 78, Lot: 19.04, 10-2-17. Application to Board of Adjustment requesting variance for steep slope disturbance for retaining wall and regrading of property to create lawn area. No comment needed. **CLOSED**.

- New Cingular Wireless, Fairmount Avenue, Block: 62.09, Lot: 2, 8-14-17. Proposing adding 12 telecommunications antennas on an existing transmission tower which will replace temporary tower at Municipal Building. Requires variances for use, antennae height, fence height, panel antennae size, setback from residential district and preliminary and final site plan. No comment needed. **CLOSED**.

- 384 Shunpike Road, Block: 95.01, Lot: 11, 7/13/17. Application to Board of Adjustment proposing change of use from medical use to general office / professional. No comment needed. **CLOSED**.

#### REPORTS

- Climate Focus Subcommittee J. Romeo, Chair.
  - Discuss resolution opposing offshore drilling. Jessica will modify resolution for discuss and vote at next meeting and ask Township Committee to consider adoption.
- EC Facebook page C. Feeser. Increase in followers.

- Pesticide Reduction Subcommittee. C. Feeser, Chair. Will communicate with Tom C. regarding bringing organic lawn treatments to the next level.

Cara will be working on updating the Pesticide Brochure and forward to Board of Health.

- Planning Board D. Travisano, Planning Board liaison.

- Township Committee

K. Swartz, Township Committee liaison and Public Safety

- 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.

- Recycling Committee - F. Esposito, Chair

- A trash compactor at Tanglewood has been installed by the MCMUA at no extra cost to the town. It replaces all but one of the dumpsters. Without weekly pickup Tanglewood is the option many people use.

- Tonnage report. According to the Dept of Environmental protection Chatham Township made the top 10 towns in Morris County for percentage of municipal or household waste recycled.

Morris county recycled 776,771 tons of trash and debris verses 396,000 tons of garbage [2015 data ].

Chatham Borough 74.7 %

Victory Garden 69.4 %

Pequannock 68.8 %

Riverdale 67.4 %

Morris Twp 66.7 %

Chatham Township 64.5 %

Mountain Lake 62.6 %

Netcong 61.7 %

Randolph 61.7 %

Mendham 60.8 %

- Community Education and Outreach Committee. F. Esposito, Chair.

#### 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 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.

#### 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

- ANJEC training workshop for new environmental commissioners, choice of any one of the Saturdays March 10, 17, 24. The closest one is in Roxbury, Saturday, March 17, 9am -1:30pm, Roxbury Community Center, 72 Eyland Avenue, Roxbury. Free for CTEC members. Details at [anjec.org](http://anjec.org). Dot will attend.

#### MAIL RECEIVED

- Monthly financial report

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

ADJOURN 9:04

Carolyn Scannelli Minutes  
Secretary

