

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday February 7, 2017

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:23 pm on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members, Steve Carroll, Frank Esposito, Peter Gallagher, Maureen Kelly and Dot Stillinger and. Absent: Cara Feeser, 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 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.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 2017 AND JANUARY 2018
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 (to avoid New Year's weekend).

Maureen Kelly motioned to approve the January 10, 2017 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Steve Carroll 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:25-7:32)

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

Reviewed potential list of actions for June 2018 recertification, some items have been completed. 150 points required would like to achieve 180 points for a solid foundation.

Support of resolution in support of the Highlands Act – Members discussed with some disagreement, but did consent to recommend Township Committee adoption of the resolution proposed by the Highlands Coalition to support the Highlands Act. Steve Carroll motioned to refer to the Township Committee for support and adoption; Dot Stillinger 2nd with all in favor.

PIPELINE MAP

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

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.

WORKDAY 2017

Township Committeeman Mike Kelly suggested a joint workday with the Open Space Committee close to Earth Day to spread woodchips on Hillside Trail on the former Averett property on Hillside Ave. Steve

Carroll motioned for CTEC to co-sponsor this event with OSC and Maureen Kelly 2nd, with all in favor. Dot will ask Cara, OSC liaison, to finalize details with OSC Chair Joseph Basralian for an April 22 date.

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. **PENDING. Steve Carroll motioned to approve second memo to the Board of Adjustment requesting applicant grant a conservation easement on the lower approximately quarter acre of property 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. **CLOSED.**
- 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. Approved comment letter to NJDEP. **CLOSED.**
- 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.**

GRANTS

- New Jersey American Water. Grants available up to \$10,000 for a water quality project, must be joint with another environmental organization. Salaries and compensation for support of a project or program are ineligible for the grant. Information at www.newjerseyamwater.com under the "About Us" tab. CTEC discussed the grant availability, unfortunately CTEC does not have the resources to apply and complete a project to achieve this grant.

REPORTS

- Water Quality Subcommittee - P. Gallagher, Chair
Thursday, March 16 event from 7:30-8:30 p.m., to be located in municipal building's large meeting room. Peter called NJAW and NJDEP, they are unable to attend. Considering 2/3 speakers, will contact the Democratic and/or Republican Committee of the Chatham's and a local environmental company. Advertise on social media, township website and electronic bulletin board. All are welcome, refreshments will be served.

The future event schedule:

- 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: a Saturday in June - (Infrastructure) tour of the NJ American Water treatment plant in Short Hills. **TOURS** – are not granted on Saturday's, will look into other options.
 - Will combining events 3 & 4: September 14th and November 2nd to Thursday, October 19th . Details to follow.
- 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

- Pesticide Reduction Subcommittee.

C. Feeser, Chair

- The Chatham schools do not use any pesticides on lawns or playing fields. Use of pesticides at schools is regulated by the state (<http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/pcp-ipm.htm>). A "Safe Playing Fields Act" (S541) has been introduced. CTEC urges residents to consider using none or only organic pesticides and fertilizers.

- 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 Board of Health – K. Swartz, Township Committee and BOH liaison.
TC discussing Open Space Tax.

- 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 16 single family homes, in exchange for building and maintaining 54 affordable rental units on the skate park and a PILOT agreement. Sterling/Sun Homes hopes the Township will approve this deal.

- Possible Joint Workday near the Earth Day date.

- Communications Committee/Website - F. Esposito, Chair.

Continues to review website, notify with updates or changes.

- Recycling Committee - F. Esposito, Chair

- A trash compactor at Tanglewood is being 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. Reviewed tonnage report through December 2016.

- 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. Wetlands layer no longer works. Search for more detailed information about a lot 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 former Kirby tract? Nash Field to Green Village Road?

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- 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

- Friday, March 17, 8 AM-5 PM. New Jersey Conservation Foundation Annual Rally. Hyatt Regency Hotel, 2 Albany St., New Brunswick. www.njconservation.org. \$80.

- Dot Stillinger will attend, Steve Carroll will consider.

- Saturday, March 25, 9-1:30, ANJEC environmental commissioner training. Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., Cranford. This location is closest to Chatham. Other dates and venues at anjec.org. All are urged to attend, especially new commissioners. Free for CTEC members.

MAIL RECEIVED

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

ADJOURN 8:47

Carolyn Scannelli