

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

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:23 pm on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Amy Mason, Dan Miller, Christina Mott, Jessica Romeo, Dot Stillinger, and Township Committee Liaison Tracy Ness. Absent: Matt Palmer and Don Trivisano.
Township Administrator Bob Hoffmann.

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.

Maureen Kelly motioned to approve the February 5, 2019 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Dan Miller 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:43-7:48) Maureen Kelly, Green Team Chair, J. Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair – 2018 Bronze Certification. Working towards 2021 certification and possible Silver certification. Sustainable Jersey is celebrating its 10 year anniversary and recognized Chatham Township, Steve Carroll and the Green Team as being one of the towns that have participated from origination.

Township Administrator Bob Hoffmann introduced himself to the commission. He is the first Township Administrator to ever sit in at a meeting. Administrator Hoffmann spoke about his interest in the environment including electric charging stations, hybrid vehicles, BPU energy improvements projects. Chair Stillinger stated CTEC's purpose and goals (as published in all minutes). All discussed the recycling center and the need to be up graded and more accessible, also spoke about Rolling Knolls.

STYROFOAM RECYCLING (Amy Mason) Evan Skinner from the Chatham Township Presbyterian Church reached out to Amy regarding help running the Styrofoam collection there, which they have been collecting for 2 years. They have become victims of their own success. They are collecting more than they can handle. She was reaching out for help or guidance with the program.
Foam Pack Industries, Springfield NJ accepts recycled Styrofoam. Unfortunately, CTEC is unable to assist with the transportation to the facility.

PLAN FOR SPRING TREE SEEDLING GIVE-A-WAY New Jersey and the Arbor Day Foundation supply free tree seedlings to residents through the New Jersey Tree Recovery Program. Date is Saturday April 27 for the Give-A-Way, with pickup of seedlings on Thursday April 25. Task list and schedule reviewed.

PLAN FOR SPRING EARTH DAY WORKDAY EVENT - Earth Day in 2019 is Monday April 22. Workday will be Saturday April 6. - Project will be improving 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. Task list and schedule reviewed.

OFFSHORE DRILLING – Jessica Romeo has researched. Further discussion at next meeting and consideration of opposing resolution to State legislators.

PILGRIM OIL PIPELINE – Successful Event, "Walk the Line" walk along part of the proposed Pilgrim pipeline route, as the New Jersey Conservation Foundation did on the proposed PennEast gas pipeline route, was held last Saturday, Feb. 23 with 14 people attending. 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.

Visit <http://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=af162ec18761444b929957b8c82ab903> for detailed Pilgrim 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.

NORTHERN JERSEY SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE - Jessica Romeo (CTEC Green Team Vice Chair) heads a workgroup to explore joint projects with other environmental commissions. She, Claire Whitcomb (Chair of the Madison Environmental Commission), Kate Murphy (Chair of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission) and others are discussing collaboration among the ECs and how to decide on what kinds of topics are best for multi-town action/education. Programs to ban plastics are currently in the works.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- 700 Fairmount Ave., Block 60, Lot 18.02. 11-29-2018. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for disturbance of steep slopes. An approximately 32 foot drop from street to rear property line. Drains to tributary of Black Brook, a major stream in the Great Swamp. The lot has been clear-cut. **PENDING.**

- 625 Fairmount Ave., Block 62.12, Lot 4. 11-27-2018. Application to Board of Adjustment for multiple variances for construction of a new home. Steep slopes. Approx. 40 foot drop from rear property line to Fairmount Ave. **PENDING.**

- 17 Overlook Rd., Block 124, Lot 6. 12-4-18. Application to Board of Adjustment for variances for construction of an in-ground pool and associated structures. No trees to be removed. No action needed by CTEC. **CLOSED.**

- 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 liaison spoke regarding the recent TC meeting and the necessity for an updated master plan.

- 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>.

• Pesticide Reduction Workgroup Cara Feeser, Head –

Discussion of RFP's for field maintenance. The company needs to be NOFA certified – an accredited organic lawn care specialist who maintains and sprays fields with organic products. A shared services agreement with Chatham Borough would be ideal, as fields are shared and should be treated all the same. Both would collaborate on specifications.

CTEC agreed to pass a resolution to urge the Township to only use NOFA certified methods on their playing fields. Cara Feeser motioned to adopt and Maureen Kelly 2nd with all in favor.

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 Rights0of0Way 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.

•The Great Healthy Yard project with Author Dr. Diane Lewis March 13, 10 am, Madison Public Library.

• 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 9:53

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary