

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

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:28 pm on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly and Dot Stillinger and. Absent: Frank Esposito, Peter Gallagher, Matt Palmer and Don Travisano. Also in attendance were residents Jessica Miller and Kim Flynn.

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).

Steve Carroll motioned to approve the February 7, 2017 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Maureen Kelly 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:47-7:52) - S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.
Review of sustainable jersey actions – 4 items will carry over. Possibly add municipal carbon footprint, community carbon footprint and pesticide reduction action.

PIPELINE MAP

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

DISCUSSION:

Residents Kim Flynn and Jessica Miller expressed interested in pesticide reduction within the community which they learned about through CTEC member Cara Feeser. They would like be involved in many ways including grant writing, proofreading, informing the community through social media and involvement with projects. Also discussed was the cutting down of trees & landscape at Colony Pool. Jessica Miller will inquire about the landscape plan.

WORKDAY 2017

Mike Kelly suggested partnering a workday with the Open Space Committee close to Earth Day to spread woodchips on the Hillside Trail on the former Averett property on Hillside Ave. Date: Sat. April 22 Time: 9 am-1 pm. Rain or shine. Members received a task list. Maureen contacted Shop Rite for supplies, Steve will take pictures, and Kim will post to social media sites.

GSWA SCAVENGER HUNT

GSWA runs a community scavenger hunt each year in collaboration with a town in the region. And a community partner- this year the partner is the Library of the Chathams...for the 'Treasures of the Chathams.' The event will run during spring break and the week following this April, and traverse both the Boro and township.

The idea is that students and their families can pick up the clue book from the library and learn more about their community by getting out and about exploring.

We strive for a mix of natural and cultural history clues that help people learn more about the undiscovered places around their town.

We like to involve as many community partners as possible. Hazel England, Stewardship Director, says "Especially good if there are facts that we can turn into the clues! Things like: is there signage that we can have clue questions based around. Does the location lend itself to a hike, some sort of photo op., or a particular activity that fits well there. Would we be able to leave any artifacts that students seek out at the location you have in mind. Those pieces help us flesh out the types of clues."

WEBSITE REVIEW -F. Esposito, CTEC webmaster. Frank was ill and unable to attend meeting, members wished Frank a speedy recovery...he was missed.

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.

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 storm water from Club Road is being naturally controlled. Lot drains across River Road into the Morris County Passaic River Park and into the Passaic River. Approved comment letter to Board of Adjustment. Second memo was sent to the Board of Adjustment requesting applicant grant a conservation easement on the lower approximately quarter acre. Application approved without a conservation easement; however the wetlands transition area extends well up the slope from River Rd. **CLOSED.**
- Block 140, Lot 2.02. 7 Loantaka Lane North, KJB Builders. 12-14-16. Application to Board of Adjustment for a variance for maximum size of an accessory structure where 150 ft. is allowed and 408 is proposed. Would add a significant amount of impervious cover in an area with wetlands and mounded septic systems. **PENDING.**
- 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.**

REPORTS

- Water Quality Subcommittee - P. Gallagher, Chair
March 16 event, 7:30 PM; venue will be the large community meeting room in the municipal building.
Tasks - publicity, refreshments, invitations.

The event schedule for the year is:

- 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. One speaker is confirmed.
- Event 2: a Saturday in June - (Infrastructure) tour of the NJ American Water treatment plant in Short Hills

(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 3: TBA, two or three weeks before the election - (Policy) panel discussion on the NJ Governor Election and EPA and NJDEP positions on environment/drinking water quality. Representative from the NJDEP will begin the event with a short discussion about what they do for state regulation and changes to drinking water quality.

Possibly coordinate with ANJEC and circulate invitations to Ten Towns.

• Pesticide Reduction Subcommittee. - C. Feeser, Chair

Cara spoke with the grounds supervisor of the Chatham schools who stated that they 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. Cara also spoke with Rich Young, Bldg. and Grounds Supervisor who stated at this time pesticides are used on township fields.

CTEC URGES RESIDENTS TO CONSIDER USING FEW AND ONLY ORGANIC PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS.

• Open Space Committee - Cara Feeser, chair.

A grant is being proposed to purchase two vacant homes near River Rd.

• Communications Committee - F. Esposito, Chair.

Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito.

• Invasive Species Subcommittee - M. Palmer, Chair

Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in New Jersey in May 2014 in Somerset County. Infestations throughout the U.S. and Canada have killed tens of millions of ash trees since 2002.

(<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/emeraldashborer.html>).

The Township model conservation easement document does in fact allow limited control of invasive species.

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

• 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

- Friday, March 17, 8 AM-5 PM. New Jersey Conservation Foundation Annual Rally. Hyatt Regency Hotel, 2 Albany St., New Brunswick. www.njconservation.org. Dot is speaking on CTEC's conservation easement inventory project. \$80.

- 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 9:00

Carolyn Scannelli