

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll (left 8:57), Mike Kelly, Frank Esposito, Marilyn Murray, Megan Schaaf (left 8:20), Dot Stillinger and Township Committee Liaison Curt Ritter. Township resident George Crimmins (left 8:54). Absent. Matt Palmer and Don Trivisano

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 2014 and January 2015 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, join the discussions and participate in projects.

#### CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2014 AND JANUARY 2015

Every first Tuesday February through December 2014 and the second Tuesday in January 2015.

February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July NO MEETING, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2 in 2014 and January 13 in 2015.

#### Roll Call

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the March 4, 2014 CTEC minutes and Marilyn Murray 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

#### GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:17-7:31pm)

Work ahead on Sustainable Jersey points for 2016. Planning Board will consider adopting the NRI as an element of the Master Plan as required for 20 SJ points. Reviewed points and action and concluded that there will be enough preliminary actions to make 150 points. S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

#### SPECIAL PRESENTATION (7:32-7:58 pm)

Residents Larry and Sarah Fechtner gave a presentation regarding a public easement which is located on a residential property on Linden Lane, which the township is proposing to vacate. The Fechtner's feel this easement, which is located in a dead zone and is not being used for children to walk to school, is essential and beneficial for "Safe Routes to School". After a lengthy discussion, CTEC concluded that as an Environmental Commission, they do not have enough information and facts regarding the easement to make a comment. CTEC was informed that this will be discussed at the next township committee meeting of April 10.

#### APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. Gunn, Block 9, Lot 1, 88 Long View Avenue. Application to Planning Board to subdivide 1.34-acre lot in R-3 (1/2-acre) zone into 2 new lots. Issues: steep slopes, possible habitat for endangered species, tree removal, stormwater. Site visit Saturday, April 5 at 9 a.m. Steve Carroll approve draft memo to PB with edits, and Mike Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup> with all in favor.

NEW. 9 Ferndale, Block 128, lot 31. LOI application dated 3-11-14. Half-acre lot in R-3 zone. Wetlands occur along the rear property boundary and property backs up to wetlands. Steve Carroll approve letter to DEP and Frank Esposito 2<sup>nd</sup> with all in favor.

CLOSED. Traver, 509 Shunpike Rd., Block 128, Lot 14, near Long Hill Chapel. 12-18-13. Application to NJDEP for an LOI. Owner proposes to subdivide the one-acre lot and construct a new house. Property is 1.4 acres in R-3 (1/2 acre) zone. Rear property line lies in wetlands which drain to the Great Swamp so should be classified as exceptional resource and hence require a 150 foot transition area. The rear third of the property is in the transition area. A wetlands Transition Area Waiver will be necessary. Letter has been sent to the NJDEP. Applicant is applying for an LOI.

CLOSED. Warren, 23 Susan Drive, Block 20 Lot 20. 12-2-13. Application to Board of Adjustment for Minimum front yard, Structural Retaining Wall, Disturbance of steep slopes, change in grade, height and structural retaining walls, variances to construct a new single family dwelling. A stop work order was issued because of violations of the steep slope ordinance and disturbances in the conservation easement. CTEC memo was sent to Board of Adjustment with copies to Planning Board,

Township Committee. Board of Adjustment approved application, Township Committee approved remediating the vegetation on the conservation easement.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance. The Refuge under no circumstances would consider acquiring it until the cleanup has been completed and all liability has been extinguished. It has been declared "an area in need of redevelopment" by the Township Committee. What does that mean for conservation purposes?

## REPORTS

Planning Board report. D. Travisano.

Township Committee report. Survey Monkey will be available to use after 4/10/14 Township Committee meeting. Chatham Township Launches Electronics Newsletter April 2, 2014. C. Ritter, Township Committee liaison.

Open Space Committee report. Proposed property purchase. M. Schaaf, M. Kelly, Open Space Committee liaisons.

Communications Committee report. Frank is working directly with new webmaster.

. Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito who will work with Township Web Master Tom Salvas.

Recycling Committee report.

- Progress in creating a survey Survey Monkey to gauge public interest in weekly recycles pickup. M. Schaaf, M. Palmer.  
- Progress in getting quote from MUA for weekly pickup of recyclables. Progress in getting weekly pickup into the Township budget. F. Esposito, Chair. Visits to Tanglewood down; increase in single stream curbside pickup. - Tonnage report. M. Schaaf,

Community Education and Outreach Committee report.

M. Kelly, M. Schaaf, and F. Esposito, Chair.

Conservation Easement Subcommittee. No report.

## NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- Tasks for Open Space Workday on April 19. Task list has been circulated if anyone wants to volunteer. Megan has taken on communication tasks.
- Bears have been sighted on Huron Drive. Bear workshop was held in November. EC bear education project?
- 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, not Chrome.
- Discussion about requiring subdivision and site plans and related documents to be submitted in pdf format. If that happens CTEC should be on the list to receive all pdf plans and documents. Currently the township requires applicants to submit 25 paper copies of every sheet and document, which amounts to a large stack of paper and is costly for the applicant.
- Possible projects for grants.
- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District ([www.mcsd.org/](http://www.mcsd.org/)) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, is one of four Morris County towns that assume the responsibility for soil and erosion management instead of leaving it to the county.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

## RECENT LETTERS SENT

- March 2014. Memo to Planning Board urging adoption of Natural Resources Inventory as a section of the Conservation Element of the Master Plan.
- January 2014. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning violation of conservation easement on steep slopes on a property on Susan Drive, memo to NJDEP urging an applicant for subdivision on Shunpike Road to obtain an LOI.

## EVENTS

- Planning Board site visit, Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m., 88 Longview Rd.
- CTEC Twelfth Annual Open Space Workday, RAIN OR SHINE, on Saturday, April 19, 2014 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Everyone is invited to come at any time during the morning to help out at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area.

- ANJEC workshop on Municipal Open Space: Planning, Acquisition and Management, Tuesday, April 29, 7:00pm-9:00pm, Essex County Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland. Free for CTEC members.
- Passaic River Symposium VI, Intersecting Priorities, Organized by the Passaic River Institute of Montclair State University, Thursday October 9, 2014, Friday October 10, 2014, Montclair State University Conference Center, 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, NJ. About \$60 if you identify yourself as an EC member. Note that any group can host a short workshop on their topic of interest. <http://www.montclair.edu/csam/passaic-river-institute/conferences-symposiums>.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:25

Carolyn Scannelli