

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday April 2, 2019

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Amy Mason, Dan Miller, Jessica Romeo, and Dot Stillinger. Absent: Township Committee Liaison Tracy Ness Christina Mott, Matt Palmer and Don Travisano.

Also attending, Twp. residents Sally O'Neill and Lisa McHugh Board of Adjustment member.

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 March 5, 2019 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Jessica Romeo 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:40-8:00) Maureen Kelly, Green Team Chair, J. Romeo, and Green Team Vice Chair – 2018 Bronze Certification achieved. GT is optimistic about working towards silver certification as the Township Administrator is supportive and energy conscious.

Continue researching Energy Aggregation programs, which is an opt-in program for energy savings. There is no cost to the town, needs ordinance approval. Exploring options, further discussion to follow. Discussed Dual Stream recycling, and will urge the township committee to consider adopting an ordinance/resolution for the same. Dual stream recycling provides a cleaner and lower contamination which and savings.

REVIEW CTEC ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018 Reviewed, Maureen Kelly motioned to accept and approve and Cara Feeser 2nd with all in favor.

NEW JERSEY'S CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM brought to you by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. - How can CTEC get the word out about this energy and cost saving program that will assist many residents. Grants and low or no interest loans are available to residents for these programs. Free energy audit for your home or business. - Chatham Township took advantage of an energy audit program, received a grant, and updated lighting throughout the municipal building. Every homeowner should participate in this program. It saves energy and money, and provides peace of mind. Each homeowner who participates is helping New Jersey and the United States become energy self-sufficient. We are helping save the environment.

NORTHERN JERSEY SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE - Jessica Romeo (CTEC Green Team Vice Chair) heads this workgroup to explore joint projects with other environmental commissions. She, Claire Whitcomb (Chair of the Madison Environmental Commission), Len Resto (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 multitown action/education. Programs to ban plastics are upcoming. – next meeting April 6 meeting on Sustainability - Upcoming invasive species workshop May 7. - Upcoming plastics pollution workshop May 16.

SPRING TREE SEEDLING GIVE-A-WAY Saturday, April 27. Tanglewood Compost. New Jersey and the Arbor Day Foundation supply free tree seedlings to residents through the New Jersey Tree Recovery Program. Reviewed task list and schedule. Protecting your seedling video posted on twp page and Facebook. Sign up through "signupgenius" link.

SPRING WORKDAY EVENT – Saturday, April 6. Earth Day 2019 is Monday April 22. 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. Pick up trash, spread woodchips and improve footpath, prune invasives, plant native shrubs and flowers, install signs or other amenities. Task list and schedule prepared.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- Williams/Transco gas transmission pipeline, notice of valve replacement, 3-21-19. Work to begin 4-22-19. Facility at the end of Jay Road. Adjoining wetlands. **PENDING**

. - 700 Fairmount Ave., Block 60, Lot 18.02. 11-29-2018. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for disturbance of steep slopes already altered. A 43 foot drop from street to rear property line. Drains to tributary of Black Brook, a major stream in the Great Swamp. Much of the lot has been clear-cut. Review for approval letter to be sent from CTEC to Board of Adjustment. **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 upper 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 investigated. DEP is requiring owner to remove fill and restore wetlands. **CLOSED.**

- 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.**

OFFSHORE DRILLING – Jessica Romeo will continue to research. NJ along with other states has filed a federal lawsuit to band off shore drilling.

REPORTS

- Open Space Subcommittee Cara Feeser, liaison to Open Space Committee Submitted stream buffer requirements. Working on updating Open Space plan.

- Recycling and Pollution Subcommittee Christina Mott, Head - ANJEC roadshow on plastics pollution on May 16. For information on ANJEC roadshows see <http://www.anjec.org/RoadShows.htm>

- Pesticide Reduction Subcommittee Cara Feeser, Head – Still planning on RFP's for field maintenance.

- Community Education and Outreach Subcommittee Jessica Romeo, Head – researched an on-site residential backyard composting company. Possible put together a composting program for fall 2019.

- EC Facebook Page Subcommittee Cara Feeser, Head – Constantly adding new links and informative information.

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.
- Pilgrim oil pipeline - Event, a "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 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.
- Passaic River snag removal Clearing snags from the Passaic River between White Bridge Road and Stanley Park has come up for discussion. CTEC might want to support asking the Morris County Mosquito Control Commission to consider at least partial snag removal. Also GSWA might be interested. CTEC's role would be to support and possibly publicize the project. Developing a constituency for the river would be helped by increasing recreational opportunities. If you have photos of snags please send them to Dot.
 - Projects for grants - Discuss possible projects that could be done if we obtained a PSE&G SJ grant. The grant would pay for hiring a consultant or engineer. Restoration of streambanks, removal of Passaic River snags, invasive species removal and education, improve the Green Village pond area, electric vehicle charging, solar demonstration project. - New Jersey American Water also has a grant program. It can be applied for almost any time.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- March 2019. Letters to Senator Richard Codey, Asm. John McKeon and Asm. Mila Jasey urging legislation requiring pesticide-free lawn care on school and municipal playing fields and recreation areas.
- 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 Rights-of-Way to Permit Selective Herbicide Application within Riparian Zones.

EVENTS

- Invasive species workshop, May 7, 6:30-8 p.m., Chatham Township municipal building. Free. This is also the date of the CTEC meeting.
- ANJEC roadshow on plastics pollution, May 16. John McKeon will kick it off. 7:00 pm, Madison Community House, 25 Cook Ave, Madison Free. MAIL RECEIVED - Notices of LOI and General Permit requests - Newsletters - Monthly financial report - Minutes of recent meetings of the Long Hill Township and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions

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 9:34

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary