

Chatham Township Environmental Commission  
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600  
Minutes of the Tuesday April 3, 2018 – No Quorum

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:28 pm on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Dot Stillinger, Steve Carroll –Green Team Subcommittee member and Township Committee Liaison Karen Swartz. Absent: Frank Esposito, Peter Gallagher, Christina Mott, Matt Palmer, Jessica Romeo 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 2018 January 2019 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 including the Land Use Subcommittee, join the discussions and participate in projects.

APPROVED DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS IN 2018 AND JANUARY 2019 Tuesday February 6, Tuesday March 6, Tuesday April 3, Tuesday May 1, Tuesday June 12 (avoid Primary Election day), no meeting in July, Tuesday August 7, Tuesday September 11 (avoid Labor Day), Tuesday October 2, Tuesday November 13 (avoid Election Day), Tuesday December 4, Tuesday January 8, 2019.

March 23, 2018 Green Team and meeting minutes were not approved, as there was not a quorum.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:30-7:50) M. Kelly - Green Team Chair, J. Romeo - Green Team Vice Chair, Steve Carroll-member GT Subcommittee.

- Steve suggested new Sustainable Jersey actions to consider for June 2018. Prescription drug drop-off has been added to CTEC webpage. Tree seedling giveaway may qualify for Innovative Project points. Checking on book sale towards points. CTEC 2018 Annual review report will qualify for points. Look into 2017 township vehicle diesel/gas report towards points.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENING Mayor Curt Ritter has issued the following invitation: On behalf of the Chatham Township Committee I invite you to attend our Committee meeting on Thursday, April 12 at 7:30 PM so that we can once again recognize your efforts, and those of your members who volunteer their time to the benefit of Chatham Township. Please share this with your colleagues/members and let me know if you will be able to attend. Thank you again for all that you do to make Chatham Township such a great place to live! I look forward to seeing you on April 12th. Chair Dot Stillinger and Township Committeewomen Swartz encouraged CTE members to attend and be recognized.

ISSUES - PILGRIM PIPELINE, OFFSHORE DRILLING - Rumors that Pilgrim is beginning to apply for permits. - 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.

SEEDLING DISTRIBUTION PROJECT SATURDAY APRIL 28 (Rain or Shine) 9-2 PM - Cara Feeser, facilitator  
Cara spoke with DPW Director Joe Barilla who suggested supplying protection fencing for seedlings to guard off animals and other elements. The first 100 attendees will receive free fencing. Protection fencing instructions will be provided with the seedlings.

- Tree seedlings are available free through the NJ Tree Recovery Campaign. C Feeser suggests a possible CTEC project as follows:

- Decide on 5 different types of seedlings.

- A work crew of adults and kids-divided into shifts – Community Volunteers needed.

- A drive through location like the recycling center on a Saturday. People wouldn't even have to get out of their cars.

They could line up in their cars, place their order with a volunteer who would put together their order, and hand it to them on the way out.

- A total of 1000 trees for 200 people

- Wood chips or mulch from the compost area, dampened with water, would be perfect to keep the seedlings fresh.

Hopefully, we can get the DPW to help lay down a bed of material in advance.

- On the day before distribution, one or two people with a pickup truck could get the trees, and a couple of volunteers would be needed to organize them by species and arrange them in the damp mulch.

- Possible donation from ShopRite of paper bags.

- Check with DPW regarding leftover seedlings.
- Post to Facebook

#### RIVER CLEANUP WORKDAY 2018

- Riverbank Workday date will be Saturday, April 21, boat put-in will be Oakwood Park in New Providence.
- Discussed Task List. River Trail cleanup will be suitable for families. Stream cleanup will be restricted to those over 18 - must sign in and be checked for life jacket, no chain saws. Needed: research into which government entities have responsibility for the river.

REVIEW ANNUAL REPORT – Deferred to May meeting.  
Approve for sending to the Township Committee.

REVIEW UPDATED CONSERVATION INVENTORY AND MAP - Chatham Township holds about 47 conservation easements protecting about 78 acres, a mix of steep slopes and wetlands, and the NJDEP holds about 17 conservation easements protecting about 71 acres, mostly wetlands. This does not include land protected by easements required because the acquisition was made using Green Acres funds. See <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/ga50/db.html> and <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/openspace.html> for the list of Green Acres parcels. The easements acquired by Chatham Township protect sensitive areas not under the jurisdiction of any other agency. - The map shows non-Green Acres conservation easements held by Chatham Township, the NJDEP and one small easement held by the Great Swamp Watershed Association. If CTEC approves we can include the map in the NRI.

#### APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW –

Passaic Street Bridge. Township Committeewomen Karen Swartz updated CTEC with the following information. As of Feb. 28. Union County submitted an application on January 5, 2018 to the NJDEP for a General Permit for removal and replacement of an existing deteriorated bridge deck in-kind, that crosses over the Passaic River along County Road 647. The EC can keep an eye out for excessive silt and debris entering the river.

Karen Swartz attended a meeting with Union County officials regarding the unavoidable replacement of the bridge that connects River Road in Chatham Township with New Providence. Also present were members of the Morris County Engineering corps. Union County is already in discussion obviously with DEP and promises that construction will demand all caution regarding environmental impact of the Passaic River. This is something that will be of great concern to CTEC going forward.

The project is scheduled to begin in September or October; requests for bids will be going out in the weeks ahead with an award in approximately two months. Staging area for the project will be limited to the New Providence side of the River and the existing road bed on the Township side, not to impact the shores of the Passaic. The engineers they met with expect the project to continue for 9 to 12 months after its commencement. Please let Karen know if you have any questions. Karen will be in regular contact with both Union County officials and Morris County officials and will eagerly hold their feet to the fire at any turn.

446 Green Village Road, Mads & Sari Jepsen, 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 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 its exceptional resource wetlands and the required 300 foot stream buffer. We have asked the Board of Adjustment to request a conservation easement on most of the wetlands. PENDING.

- 11 Sunset Drive, Golden River Homes LLC, Block 61, Lot 16. 10-16-17. Application to Board of Adjustment, requesting variances for construction of a single family home. Steep slopes, drains to Great Swamp, previous application to BOA was denied. CTEC will follow this application. PENDING.

- 341 Green Village Road, Aleksandra Bury, Block 48.17, Lot 133. Application to the Board of Adjustment requesting front yard and side yard setback variances for a reconstruction on existing foundation. Incomplete on 8/14/17. A tributary of Black Brook almost bisects the property, wetlands are found on the rear of the property, rear property line adjoins Chatham Township property, which is almost all wetlands. CTEC will follow this application. PENDING.

- 16 Club Road. Board of Adjustment site visit was on Saturday, March 3.

#### REPORTS

No New Reports.

#### 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.
- 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. Search for more detailed information about a parcel at <http://mcweb1.co.morris.nj.us/MCTaxBoard/>. Use Microsoft Internet Explorer for both.

#### RECENT LETTERS SENT

- February 2018. Memo to Board of Adjustment regarding unauthorized clearcutting on a Club Road parcel and request for conservation easement on the wetland transition area portion. Memo to Board of Adjustment requesting conservation easement on portion of a property being developed on Green Village Road which is almost entirely wetlands or transition areas.
- May 2017. Letter to the NJDEP regarding an application for vegetation removal on steep slopes in a wetland transition area.

#### EVENTS

- The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is sponsoring a panel on April 19 at Westfield High School, from 7-9pm. It should be a fascinating event, since we have the president of the BPU (Fiordaliso), the national renewable energy policy analyst from Food & WaterWatch (Jim Walsh), and the director of the Ecocomplex at Rutgers (a clean energy innovation center), among others. Since this is a League-sponsored event, it will also be the official April meeting for the Union Area chapter of the League.

#### MAIL RECEIVED

- Monthly financial report
- Minutes of recent meetings of the Long Hill Township and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions

ADJOURN 8:39

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary



