

Chatham Township Environmental Commission  
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600  
Minutes of the Tuesday, April 7, 2020

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:17 pm on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, By Zoom Video Conferencing due to COVID-19. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Amy Mason, Jessica Romeo, Dot Stillinger. and Township Committee Liaison Celeste Fondaco. Also attending resident/BOA member Lisa McHugh, Elaine Davis, Tom Salvias and Evan Sciarrello. Absent: Dan Miller, Matt Palmer, Doris Rhee 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 2020 January 2021 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.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS FOR 2020 AND JANUARY 2021 First Tuesdays except second Tuesday in January 2021 to meet after the Township Committee reorganization meeting and second Tuesday in November to avoid Election Day: February 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July NO MEETING, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 10, December 1 and January 12, 2021.

Maureen Kelly motioned to approve the March 3, 2020 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Amy Mason 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:21-7:30) Maureen Kelly, Green Team Chair, Jessica Romeo, Vice Chair.

- 2018 BRONZE CERTIFICATION. Plan for recertification for 2021.

- Due to COVID-19, the Green Team will not meet outside of the CTEC meeting. Will continue with SJ list for Twp. Committee action/approval at a later date.

APPROVE CTEC ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019 – This was on the March agenda for review, additions were subsequently included. Cara Feeser motioned to approve the 2019 Annual Report and Amy Mason 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

NORTH NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE Jessica Romeo, Municipal Alliance Subcommittee – No update due to COVID-19

NEW JERSEY'S CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM Amy Mason, Energy Subcommittee – No update due to COVID-19.

SEEDLING GIVE-A-WAY - CANCELLED Cara Feeser

- Date would have been Saturday April 25.

- Possibly reschedule for fall.

CTEC WORKDAY IN APRIL - CANCELLED

- Date would have been Sat. April 18, 9-noon.

- Possibly reschedule for fall.

EARTH WEEK Jessica Romeo – Possible Township-wide clean-up during April. While all in-person April events have been cancelled, it was thought that people could pick up trash as they walk through their neighborhood, hike, or other places as they see fit. Individuals are to use safety precautions and discretion, trash bag and gloves needed. Leave the trash with their weekly pickup. If metal is collected, there will be a designated pickup location. People are encouraged to take pictures and use #CTECEarthday #CTECcleanup Pictures should be emailed to Dot Stillinger. Any photos submitted which include people will have to have the people identified and their permission obtained before posting on the web.

Notices will be put on CTEC and township website, CTEC Facebook, Chatham Township Facebook, School webpage. Also announce at TC meeting, Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Stillinger resolved to support Jessica Romeo's ideas, it's nice to get people engaged.

Chatham Eagle Scout created a Chatham Township Historical Society Driving Tour app - a free "Tour Chatham" app that guides people through a 1.5-hour, 14-stop driving tour of Chatham Township, Green Village and Madison. Designed by Anthony Tesoriero with the help of the Chatham Township Historical Society. Compatible with iPhone.

Great Swamp Watershed Association – Scavenger Hunt for kids. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this can be done in your own backyard. Check out link. This information will be posted to CTEC Facebook.

<https://www.greatswamp.org/event/stay-at-home-savenger-hunt>

ROLLING KNOLLS - CAG meeting cancelled. - The portion of the Superfund site owned by the Miele Trust now has a conservation easement requiring that it "shall be preserved as open space. There shall be no development of the Subject Property for any purposes, including, without limitation, for residential, commercial, or industrial use." Chair Stillinger will monitor and keep everyone informed.

#### APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW –

Ongoing. For the foreseeable future plans submitted to the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment will be made available to the public online in digital format.

- Discussion. The NJDEP and the Township Engineer have assumed many of the environmental oversight activities that used to be the responsibility of the EC and outside non-profit environmental groups.

Chair Stillinger would like to address this matter at a later meeting. The enabling state legislation for environmental commissions, first adopted in 1968 and updated in 1972, assumed commissions would pursue activities that since have been taken over by others. Not sure what functions should currently be assumed and how CTEC can be effective in, for instance, the area of permit review.

#### REPORTS

- Township Committeewoman Celeste Fondaco is the new liaison for 2020.

- Planning Board – meeting canceled.

- Pesticide Reduction Subcommittee Cara Feeser. Possibly be a guest speaker at the next Madison EC meeting.

#### NOTES AND RESOURCES

- Pilgrim oil pipeline – No known meetings planned. As a side note, the public does not always hear what is going on with special interest groups and they can try to slip things under the radar at times like this, COVID-19.

- In September 2019 the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit agreed with arguments made by the New Jersey attorney general that a private company (PennEast) lacked legal authority to seize or condemn state lands in federal court under the 11th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Under the legal doctrine of sovereign immunity, a state cannot be sued by a private company without its consent. Tom Gilbert, campaign director for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, said the ruling makes clear that PennEast seriously overstepped the law in trying to condemn state-owned lands, many preserved in partnership with counties, towns and private land trusts. The PennEast pipeline is a controversial 120-mile project to bring natural gas from Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale into New Jersey and metropolitan markets.

- 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> to see if the Pilgrim Pipeline goes near your house. The web site was 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.

- 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.

• View open space and Green Acres properties at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/ga50/docs/roslite.pdf> and <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/openspace.html>. EVENTS All in-person events cancelled for the foreseeable future.

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

ADJOURN 8:18

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary