

Chatham Township Environmental Commission  
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600  
Minutes of the Tuesday May 1, 2018

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:28 pm on Tuesday, May 1, 2018, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Christina Mott, Jessica Romeo, Dot Stillinger, Steve Carroll – Green Team Subcommittee member and Township Committee Liaison Karen Swartz. Absent: Frank Esposito, Peter Gallagher, Matt Palmer, 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.

Jessica Romeo motioned to approve the March 23, 2018 CTEC and Green Team minutes and meeting minutes from April 3, 2018 and Maureen Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:25-7:55) M. Kelly - Green Team Chair, J. Romeo - Green Team Vice Chair, Steve Carroll -member GT Subcommittee.

- Discussed actions and backup information needed for completion of June 3, 2018 recertification.
- Looking ahead to 2021 and possible Silver certification, can be difficult but have ideas of possible actions.
- Tree seedling giveaway and book sale qualified for points.
- Organic field project may not qualify towards sustainable action. Needs more looking into.
- Municipal energy audit is being redone by S. Carroll, waiting on additional information.
- Maureen suggested checking Sustainable Jersey webpage to see if any action items are of interest. Ideas have to be examined carefully.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CARA FEESER FOR ACHIEVING ORGANIC MUNICIPAL PLAYING FIELDS

- After a year-long effort Cara Feeser, CTEC Vice-chair, has succeeded in persuading the Township to go over to all organic pesticide-free municipal playing field maintenance.
- Lincoln Landscaping has been contracted to provide the organic management of the fields and Colony Pool. Lincoln Landscaping is a Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) registered organic company and teaches a leg of the NJ Organic Land Care Program at Rutgers University to other landscapers.

Organically maintained fields are less susceptible to disease than chemically treated fields over time. Chemically treated lawns are very low in organic matter and have depleted soil microorganisms, whose abundance and diversity is the ultimate safeguard against disease. Additionally, chemically treated turf becomes hard and compacted because of the depletion of organic material from the soil.

Proper organic management alleviates compaction and provides a better playing surface.

Recently, the NJ American Academy of Pediatrics issued a policy statement urging the reduction of all exposure and specifically called out reducing pesticide use where children are exposed to the most pesticides, where they play.

"We are making the change to organic playing fields because it is the right thing to do," said Deputy Mayor Karen Swartz, who is also the Chatham Township Committee liaison to the Environmental Commission. "We want to protect our most vulnerable residents, our children."

**SEEDLING GIVEAWAY PROJECT SATURDAY APRIL 28** - Cara Feeser, head of the project and CTEC vice-chair, Maureen and Mike Kelly, chief volunteers for the project

- One thousand trees of 10 species were given away including dogwood, maple, oak, sweet gum, black walnut, spruce. Over 100 people dropped by the Tanglewood recycling center to pick up their free bundles of trees. More than 20 volunteers including several children helped sort and tag trees and hand out trees to customers. Joe Basralian, chair of the Chatham Township Open Space Committee, constructed simple tree protection cages of chicken wire, twistems and a garden stake which were handed out until they were gone. You can see Joe demonstrating the cage and giving instructions for constructing your own and planting a tree at the Chatham Township environmental commission website, <http://www.chathamtownship-nj.gov/committees/environmental>.

#### RIVER CLEANUP WORKDAY 2018

- Riverbank Workday was April 21, canoe/kayak portion was canceled because of high and swift water in the Passaic River. Over 40 volunteers clipped brambles and picked up trash, filling over 30 trash bags plus collecting large items like cushions, tires and metal pieces.
- Here are the names of the volunteers. The Environmental Commission extends its thanks.

Kiera Harkins, Aidan Sims, Ursula and Andrew Flint, Cathy Wilkes, Maureen and Michael Kelly, Meredith Abbott, Cara Feeser, Jessica Romeo and Asher Robson, Steve Clymer, Tracy Ness, Jodie Pelinsky, Anauk Long, Jim Wohlbruck, Susan and Zack Zwick, Andreana and Mark Field, Claire Brough, Christina Yampaglia, Christina and David Mott, Ole Raadam, Tristan Long, Chili Connell, James Gordon, Will Cassano, Andrew Wohlbruck, Sean Pelinski, Naomi Boyd, Mike Boyd, Hailey Harkins, Katie Eveleth, Paul Danenberg, Morton and Shannon O'Toole, Frank and Dot Stillinger.

#### GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

- Trail work is always available for volunteers.
- Eagle Scout Ethan Atkins recently constructed and installed a kiosk at the trailhead for the Green Village Pond trail. Grateful thanks to Ethan for making the trailhead look neat and professional.

#### 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, an easement held by the Great Swamp Watershed Association, and a trail easement. If CTEC approves we can include the map in the NRI.

#### 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.

#### APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- 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. CTEC 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. Application 4-24-18 to NJDEP for wetlands permits 8, 10B and 24 for house and driveway addition and septic replacement. CTEC will follow this application. **PENDING.**
- 16 Club Road. Memorialization at the Board of Adjustment meeting on April 19. **CLOSED.**

#### REPORTS

- Township Committee - K. Swartz, Township Committee liaison – Reported that the Township Committee recently passed a revised/amended Tree Ordinance, which was created to restrict clear cutting of trees when building a new home. Some CTEC members agreed that they were impressed with the job that the Board of Adjustment is doing given the ordinances.
- Recycling Committee - F. Esposito, Chair  
Jessica Romeo spoke about creating a Free Cycle area at Tanglewood. Rather than throw things away, create a group where you can give and get free stuff. It's about reusing instead of going into a landfill. Members discussed scenarios like junk, recall items, ex: car seats, cribs etc. Members did like the idea and agreed more thought is needed. Maybe test out to see if there is an interest.

#### NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- New 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.

#### EVENTS

- Saturday, May 5, 2018, 10-11:30 AM, Library of the Chathams. Sponsored by the Chatham Borough and Chatham Township environmental commissions. Green Energy Fair including a representative from the BPU with talks on saving money on energy bills and reducing your carbon footprint. Free.
- May 16, Chatham Library – movie Truth About Ticks.
- Fishawack June 9<sup>th</sup>. CTEC will participate.

#### MAIL RECEIVED

- Application to NJDEP for wetlands permits 8, 10B and 24, Block 133, Lot 48.17, 341 Green Village Rd, for house and driveway addition and septic replacement.
- Monthly financial report

Minutes of recent meetings of the Long Hill Township and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions

ADJOURN 8:50

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary