

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday May 2, 2017

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:35 pm on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, Frank Esposito, Cara Feeser, Peter Gallagher, Maureen Kelly and Dot Stillinger. Absent: Township Liaison Karen Swartz, 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 2017 and January 2018 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 IN 2017 AND JANUARY 2018
February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 13, July NO MEETING, August 1, September 12 (to avoid Labor Day weekend), October 3, November 14 (to avoid Election Day), December 5, and January 9.

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the April 4, 2017 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Maureen Kelly 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:36-7:48) - S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.
Discussed Sustainable Jersey Action points: Integrated Pest Manage Policy (if used, needs to be adopted by resolution); shared Sustainability Fair with Chatham Borough and Prescription Drug disposal. Police headquarters provides a free prescription drug drop off box 24/7. Steve participated in the "People's Climate March" in Washington, D.C. on April 29, 2017. Steve stated that it was a great day with a massive amount of people.

PIPELINE MAP

Visit <http://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=af162ec18761444b929957b8c82ab903> for awesome 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.
Commission members briefly spoke about the advances in Lithium Battery Technologies for Electric Vehicles and the Penn East pipeline with hopes that the proposed Pilgrim pipeline may not be constructed.

REPORT ON WORKDAY 2017

On Saturday, April 22, CTEC along with Open Space and volunteers participated in spreading woodchips, plant native species, clip brambles and pick up minor trash on the Hillside Trail on the former Averett property on Hillside Ave. Over 85 people attended and made significant progress on wood chipping the trail.

GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

Volunteers continue to work on trail improvement and cleanup of dump. Projects are available for Scouts and other service groups. The goal is to extend the trail, possibly marking features for a nature walk, from Green Village Road to the Kirby meadow, and finally to create a loop trail around the meadow.
Update – possibility of an Eagle Scout project for a kiosk and benches.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- 20 Jay Rd., Block 48.14, Lot 113.19, 4-10-17. ARKAD Group. Application to NJDEP for General Permit for construction of residential addition of less than 750 square feet within a wetland transition area. Lot is previously disturbed residential and surrounded by other houses. Since it is within 300 feet of wetlands on the Outdoor Ed property a permit is required, a permit that is routinely granted. No comment required by CTEC. **CLOSED.**

- 463 River Road, Block 63, Lot 20, 11-28-16. Ferriera. Application to Board of Adjustment for setback and slope variances needed to build a proposed new house. Application in 2015 to NJDEP for permits for house addition, septic system repair. Parcel backs up to Passaic River and is adjacent to a 24 acre tract owned by Chatham Township. No CTEC comment necessary. **CLOSED.**

- 77 Meyersville Road, Block 36, Lot 15. Stancampiano, 2-10-17. Application to Board of Adjustment for variances needed for steep slope disturbance after the fact. House has been built, lot was previously terraced. Previous application was considered by CTEC. No comment necessary. **CLOSED.**

- 446 Green Village Road, Block 144, Lot 50, April 1, 2016, Mads & Sari Jepsen. 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. 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. **PENDING.**

- 16 Club Road Block 15 Lot 7 – Application to NJDEP for general permit to disturb vegetation in a wetlands transition area – D. Stillinger motioned to send letter to NJDEP for consideration regarding excessive vegetation removal on steep slopes in a wetlands transition area; should not allow vegetation to be removed. M. Kelly 2nd with all in favor. **PENDING**

REPORTS

- Water Quality Subcommittee P. Gallagher, Chair

Water Quality Event held on Thursday, March 16. About 30 people attended. Nice write-up in Chatham Courier.

The events schedule for the year:

- Event 1: Thursday, March 16 - (Policy) panel discussion on how the new Presidential administration/EPA appointments will shape national Drinking Water policy and how quality specifications are set for old and new contaminants

- Event 2: a Saturday in June - (Infrastructure) tour of the NJ American Water treatment plant in Short Hills or

(Technology) panel discussion on drinking water quality, what are contaminants of risk today, technology available to filter your water (similar to the 2016 event)

- Event 3: TBA, two or three weeks before the election - (Policy) panel discussion on the NJ Governor election and EPA and NJDEP positions on environment/drinking water quality. Representative from the NJDEP will begin the event with a short discussion about what they do for state regulation and changes to drinking water quality.

- EC new Facebook page launched by C. Feeser – received minor objection from township officials, but was able to clarify once educated with the regulations regarding State laws and policies. This page will share helpful links and information. Comments area has been disabled. Admins for the page are Cara, CTEC Chair Dot Stillinger and Township Clerk.

- Pesticide Reduction Subcommittee C. Feeser, Chair – will reach out to Chatham Athletic Foundation and sport groups regarding educating for pesticide free playing fields.

(<http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/pcp-ipm.htm>). A "Safe Playing Fields Act" (S541) has been introduced. A local group is considering taking action on pesticide reduction.

CTEC URGES RESIDENTS TO CONSIDER USING FEW AND ONLY ORGANIC PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS

- Open Space Committee - Cara Feeser, Chair. Open Space is considering reviewing an available property purchase of 17 acres.

- Website Review - F. Esposito. CTEC 15th Annual Open Space Workday April 2017 pictures uploaded to webpage.

- Communications Committee F. Esposito, Chair. Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to Frank.

- Recycling Committee F. Esposito, Chair – MUA meeting May 12, 10 am. Morris County Library. 230 E. Hanover Whippany. Steve Carroll will consider attending in Frank's place. Whole Foods and many other food stores offer free recycling of plastic bags.

- Tonnage report. – Compared tonnage report for the last 6/7 years, and tonnage has declined. CTEC members feel strongly that the residents need to be educated.

- Community Education and Outreach Committee. - F. Esposito, Chair. Cara informed Frank that the FB page may increase email, as comments and questions regarding Facebook page will be addressed through email.

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- CTEC will now devote 20 minutes during meetings to discussion and review land use applications, as needed.
- 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 <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. Wetlands layer no longer works. Search for more detailed information about a lot at <http://mcweb1.co.morris.nj.us/MCTaxBoard/>. Use Microsoft Internet Explorer for both.
- Possible projects for grants. Trails on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area and former Kirby tract? Nash Field to Green Village Road?

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- February 2017. Second memo to Board of Adjustment regarding a development application on Club Road concerning excessive tree removal and requesting a conservation easement on a downslope area.
- January 2017. Two memos to NJDEP urging care on delineating wetlands and granting permits on two properties, one on Loantaka Lane South and one on Green Village Road. Memo to Board of Adjustment regarding a development application on Club Road concerning excessive tree removal and requesting a conservation easement on a downslope area.

EVENTS

- June 21, 2017, Wednesday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm. 2017 New Jersey Sustainability Summit. The College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Rd., Ewing, NJ 08628. \$35.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill Environmental Commission.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 8:55

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary