

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:25 pm on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members, Frank Esposito, Maureen Kelly, Marilyn Murray and Dot Stillinger. Residents: Peter Gallagher, Sobha Malla and Tanay Malla. Absent: Steve Carroll, 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 2016 and January 2017 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, join the discussions and participate in projects.

#### DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS IN 2016 AND JANUARY 2017

Every first or second Tuesday February through December 2016 and the second Tuesday in January 2017.

Dates are: February 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 14, July NO MEETING, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6 in 2016 and January 10 in 2017.

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the April 5, 2016 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Maureen Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Tanaya Malla, a Chatham Township resident and a member of boy scout Troop 8 along with his mother Sobha Malla, attended the CTEC meeting as a requirement to receive a boy scout merit badge. CTEC spoke about partnering with the scouts on cleanup and other projects. Tanaya will relay message to scoutmaster, scoutmaster can contact Frank Esposito.

#### DRINKING WATER QUALITY IN CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

Township resident Peter Gallagher distributed information from NJDEP and NJ American Water's 2015 Annual Water Quality Report regarding drinking water. Report was reviewed. Due to the unfamiliarity of the contaminants, it was suggested that a speaker from one of these companies could address CTEC and the community for clarification. (Garden State Laboratories, Sierra Club, NJAW or Great Swamp). Marilyn Murray suggested that CTEC send a letter of questions to NJAW or invite them to address water inquiries.

It was also noted that Governor Christie will require state schools tested for lead.

Highlands Coalition proposed resolution will be addressed at next meeting.

WEBSITE REVIEW – adding link to recycling calendar. F. Esposito, CTEC webmaster.

#### GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA – mostly rained out.

- Work Day was Saturday, April 23. Although the event was mostly rained out several volunteers collected numerous bags of trash, spread wood chips on the path and clipped brambles. The new bridge over the far stream makes possible extending the trail onto the township owned former Kirby tract (see map attached). New professional trail markers were installed. View Frank Esposito's photos at [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ys3ixc1bu0zg6xa/AAApclUfQ\\_LCFzxrAciThqqFfa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ys3ixc1bu0zg6xa/AAApclUfQ_LCFzxrAciThqqFfa?dl=0).

CTEC suggested to partner with boy scouts on cleanup and other projects. Tanya Malla will relay message to his scout master to contact Frank Esposito.

#### APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- 609 Fairmount Ave., Block 62.12 Lot 1. Application to Planning Board for subdivision of the acre lot. Steep slopes. R-3 (1/2 acre residential) zone. Not a good candidate for a conservation easement. No memo from CTEC is required. CLOSED.

- 45 Mountain Ave., Block 37, Lot 12. Application to Board of Adjustment for variances for as-built conditions. Contractor violated conditions of previous variance approvals and disturbed too much of the steep slopes. Disturbed areas have been landscaped with sod and plantings. The conservation easement was not disturbed. No memo from CTEC is required. CLOSED.
- 513 Green Village Rd., Block 48.21, Lot 176. Dated 4-19-16. Application to NJDEP for wetlands permit for house expansion of under 750 square feet in a transition area. No issues, no memo from CTEC is required. CLOSED.
- High Gate development on Long View Avenue. Numerous violations including encroachment into conservation easements and tree non-disturbance easement. Suggest memo to Planning Board urging complete restoration of all the easement encroachments. Dot will distribute memo by email.

## REPORTS

- Open Space Committee – Walk Averett property on May 14, 2016. Spoke regarding Eagle Scout project of kiosk, table and bench. Giralda Property – clearing and outline trails; considering to stop mowing and become a meadow. Considering promoting for children “farm to school education”. Marilyn Murray, Open Space liaison.
- Communications Committee – new township website under construction. F. Esposito, Chair.
- Recycling Committee – MUA meeting in May. As of yet, no update received regarding covering recyclables at Tanglewood.  
F. Esposito, Chair, and M. Murray
- Conservation Easement Subcommittee D. Stillinger and M. Murray.
  - CTEC should pursue a mechanism for conservation easement monitoring and recording.
  - What is the procedure if a violation of a conservation easement is observed?
  - According to remarks made at the October 22 meeting of the Township Committee a memo by Carl Woodward, former Township attorney, states that conservation easements required by the Planning Board but not accepted by the Township can be vacated at will by the Township. The opinion was delivered in connection with litigation concerning the walking easement between Pine Street and Linden Lane. The opinion also applies to an easement required by the Planning Board on a parcel on River Road on steep slopes that was proposed for a cell tower, subsequently built on Esternay Field. That conservation easement extends across the rear steep portions of a four lot subdivision proposed by Nicholas Parisi and approved by the Planning Board in 1995. Suggest that CTEC urge the Township Committee to accept the 4 conservation easements.
- Invasive Species Subcommittee  
M. Palmer, Chair
  - Could the NY state DEC plan be a model for NJ?
  - Emerald ash borer comes to New Jersey (<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/emeraldashborer.html>). Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in New Jersey in May 2014 in Somerset County. Infestations throughout the U.S. and Canada have killed tens of millions of ash trees since 2002.
  - The Township model conservation easement document does in fact allow limited control of invasive species.

## NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- Note EPA Safer Choice program (<https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/learn-about-safer-choice-label>). It may be getting off the ground.
- 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 or Advanced Data Search. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer.
- 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

- March 2016. Letter to PSE&G urging great care in removing vegetation in powerline rights-of-way.
- February 2016. Memo to Board of Adjustment regarding a proposed steep slope disturbance.
- January 2016. Two letters to NJDEP concerning applications for LOI.
- December 2015. Comment letter to NJDEP regarding proposed new rules for relaxing sewers and hence development in environmentally sensitive areas.
- November 2015. Two letters to NJDEP concerning applications for LOI, one letter to NJDEP concerning repair of septic system. Letter to Planning Board regarding an application for steep slopes variances. Letter to legislators concerning SCR180 regarding allowing pipelines in wetland buffers.

EVENTS

MAIL RECEIVED

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

ADJOURN 9:03

Carolyn Scannelli