

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday, June 2, 2020

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:16 pm on Tuesday, June 2, 2020, held outdoors on municipal grounds due to COVID-19. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser (by facetime), Maureen Kelly, Amy Mason, Dot Stillinger and Township Committee Liaison Celeste Fondaco. Also attending resident/BOA member Lisa McHugh, Resident Nils Klarlund. Absent: Jessica Romeo, 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. 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: February 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July NO MEETING, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 10 (avoid election day), December 1 and January 12, 2021.

Maureen Kelly motioned to approve the April 7, 2020 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Cara Feeser 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:16-7:22) Maureen Kelly, Green Team Chair, Jessica Romeo, Vice Chair.

- 2018 BRONZE CERTIFICATION. 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.

- September 21, 2020 – National Clean-Up Day – plan for this neighborhood clean up.

DISCUSSION

- Two lots on River Road which are proposed for affordable housing. The Planning Board will be making an official request to CTEC asking to report on slope disturbance, contour disturbance, drainage, and habitat.
- Township resident Nils Klarlund, River Rd., spoke regarding township owned land which is adjacent to his property. He has been maintaining portions of the hillside of this property since 2014. He stated that the trees are disappearing due to overgrown brush, vines, and water management issues. He has discovered cisterns on the property. He is inquiring to urge proper remediation to the hillside. There is a conservation easement held by the Passaic River Coalition on the Township-owned property. There is much improvement with regards to his before and after pictures. He will forward these pictures to Dot.

NORTH NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE Jessica Romeo, Municipal Alliance Subcommittee – No update due to COVID-19. Have not received any complaints about plastic bag band.

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

TREE SEEDLING GIVE-A-WAY UPDATE Cara Feeser –

- The Chatham Township Environmental Commission held its much anticipated Tree Seedling Give-A-Way for the third year in a row on Saturday May 30, 2020. The small seedlings obtained from the New Jersey forestry service grow into decorative yard trees after several years of watering and mulching.

Almost 85 cars lined up in the lower parking lot of the Chatham Township municipal building to decide which species they wanted, bur oak, paw paw, persimmon and red bud, and received a bag of up to 5 trees loaded into their vehicle by environmental commission volunteers.

The event was organized by Lisa McHugh and carried out by her and Maureen Kelly, Chair of the Chatham Township Green Team. Environmental Commission Deputy Chair Cara Feeser, administrator of the project, said, "In spite of the restrictions caused by the pandemic this year's seedling handout was the best. All participants waited patiently in their cars and appreciated the efforts of the volunteers."

CTEC WORKDAY IN APRIL UPDATE

- Canceled. Date would have been Sat. April 18, 9-noon.
 - Maureen picked up trash on Mountain Ave. the day after the street sweeper had come through (see photo).
 - Heavy usage of the trail at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area reported over the past two months.
 - Joe Basralian's Boy Scout troops have initiated projects to create boardwalks over several wet areas on that trail.
 - Update from Joe Basralian: Gratitude to our Pack 6 Cub Scouts, who built 90 feet (and counting) of great boardwalk Memorial Day weekend over a muddy stretch of the trail, thanks to a grant from Chatham Township / Environmental Commission. Service, Pride, Skill-building, Confidence-building and FAMILY TIME. We LOVE our Scouts, community, and nation!
- LINKED HERE (https://www.facebook.com/Cub-Scout-Pack-6-Chatham-NJ-250818168268232/?__tn__=kCR&eid=ARBSbLqtHyNjNQo2kzZdaEBAj6rzXHsCLHytXsumzcg_hgCm2gGBn8IXduZgfM3dgC3xRbQPUQY3jodz&hc_ref=ARR9HpcxIPQvWaf2BtINtiav8mMYo2EidGZCrh4c6ay4O5SkhKRNYIMboWkihcd52Zo&fref=nf) is the Facebook post with photos. We did a similar post on the Facebook page titled, "Green Village Conservation Trail." Every time we visit the trail, we see more families on it.

The remainder of the lumber will be delivered shortly, ready for other 3rd Grade Cubs to do the project to earn a key part of their Baloo the Builder requirement. Families build one-at-a-time and/or at a great distance.

MILKWEED PLANT GIVE-A-WAY Jessica Romeo

- Project to start milkweed plants in organic pots and distribute them to residents.

ROLLING KNOLLS

- The portion of the Superfund site owned by the Miele Trust now has a conservation easement (attached) to the EPA 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."
- The PRPs (Principal Responsible Parties, that is, Chevron, Novatis and Nokia) issued a document (attached) rebutting the need for the comprehensive cleanup proposed by the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (attached). Several of the statements in the rebuttal need verification, in particular regarding disturbance of habitat. The habitat proposed for disturbance in the Refuge document is sub-par and needs restoration in any event.
- The remedy currently proposed by the EPA will leave almost 140 acres in Chatham Township surrounded by a fence carrying "No Trespassing" signs, limiting the ability of the Township to use the property for trails or to improve habitat. A clause in the agreement states, "b. There will be no use of the Subject Property that is inconsistent with the remedy selected by EPA for the Site."
- The property adjoins the Refuge.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- Ongoing. Many of the plans submitted to the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment will be made available to the public online in digital format.
- Discussion. The role of the EC. The NJDEP and the Township Engineer have assumed many of the environmental oversight activities that used to be mainly the responsibility of the EC and non-profit environmental groups.

Cara Feeser. - Lincoln Landscaping has been retained once again to fertilize and maintain the Township's lawns and playing fields. As stated in the Township Committee agenda for their May 14 meeting, "The Township of Chatham authorizes Lincoln Landscaping to provide the services outlined for 2020 as outlined in their proposal of June 2019 and confirmed in a meeting held on March 2, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$22,000." Lincoln Landscaping uses mostly organic methods with few chemicals.

NOTES AND RESOURCES • Pilgrim oil pipeline - 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.

- Online resources

- 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 now.

ADJOURN 8:45

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary