

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday June 13, 2017

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:40 pm on Tuesday, June 13, 2017, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Jessica Romeo, Dot Stillinger and Township Liaison Karen Swartz. Absent: Frank Esposito, Peter Gallagher, Matt Palmer and Don Trivisano.

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.

Steve Carroll motioned to approve the May 2, 2017 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Maureen Kelly 2nd, with all in favor.

Welcome new CTEC member Jessica Romeo.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:50-8:02) - S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.
Reviewed potential Sustainable Jersey actions. Discussed adding sustainably challenge.
No SJ points can be achieved for participating in the Fishawack Festival.
CTEC will participate in the Chathams Sustainability Fair, September 9, 8 am – 2 pm.

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.

FISHAWACK FESTIVAL Saturday, June 10, 2017 – CTEC had a table at Fishawack which received good reception. Also, there was interest in helping with the Green Team subcommittee and Sustainable Jersey Certification. Pesticide reduction was promoted. CTEC will participate next year.
C. Feeser, S. Carroll, organizers.

CLIMATE FOCUS SUBCOMMITTEE – Jessica Romeo, Chair. This new subcommittee was formed to provide action steps that the Township can take to affirm its commitment to reducing the effects of climate change. Steve Carroll motioned to establish the Climate Focus Subcommittee and Dot Stillinger 2nd, with all in favor. This subcommittee will be educational and resourceful while focusing on projects like reducing the carbon footprint and also expanding on existing projects.

WEBSITE REVIEW

F. Esposito, CTEC webmaster, is calling for a review of the CTEC website with the goal of removing outdated material. Continue to list items to remove or update. The website is looking very good.

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. An Eagle Scout candidate, Ethan Atkins, plans to build a bench and kiosk at the trailhead on Green Village Road. Dogs are welcomed.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- Application to NJDEP, block 15 lot 7, 16 Club Road, dated 4-26-17, for permit to remove vegetation on steep slopes in a wetland transition area. Review approved memo to NJDEP.
- 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.**

REPORTS

- Water Quality Subcommittee - P. Gallagher, Chair

The event schedule for the year is

- 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: - (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. C. Feeser – received over 150 likes and followers. Also, will use for press release, soliciting volunteers and educational information. Cara reviewed informational regulations on public use such as OPRA. Cara will closely monitor the Facebook page.

- Pesticide Reduction Subcommittee. - C. Feeser, Chair

Cara met with the Board of Health Committee on June 13, 2017 to discuss pesticide reduction, harmful pesticides on playing fields and organic lawn care. The BOH Committee is interested in pursuing this further with CTEC. Cara and Twp Clerk Greg LaConte will meet with the Township Administrator to discuss the two committees collaborating on pesticide issues.

Cara will explore possibilities about revamping the townships brochure on “Healthy Lawn & Landscape”.

The Chatham schools do not use any pesticides on lawns or playing fields. Use of pesticides at schools is regulated by the state (<http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/pcp-ipm.htm>). A "Safe Playing Fields Act" (S541) has been introduced.

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

Karen Swartz will contact DPW to speak about organic field care.

- Township Committee – K. Swartz – stated that the new Senior Rideshare program (similar to UBER) is thriving and is a low cost option for seniors and spans within a 15 mile radius.

- Communications Committee - F. Esposito, Chair.

As a reminder, any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito.

- Recycling Committee - F. Esposito, Chair

CTEC members received and reviewed the Tonnage report from 2010-current. Note: paper/cardboard was rejected in February 2015 because of snow content.

- Community Education and Outreach Committee – Cara and Steve attend the Chatham Twp high school ap environmental science class which was featuring their school projects. They were both impressed by the students enthusiasm and projects.

- Invasive Species Subcommittee - M. Palmer, Chair

- 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

- 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

- May 2017. Letter to the NJDEP regarding an application for vegetation removal on steep slopes in a wetland transition area.
- 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.
- September 8, 2017, Friday, 8 am to 1 pm. Sustainability Fair in cooperation with the Chatham Borough EC. Volunteers needed to staff our EC table and possibly present a display.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Monthly financial report.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:54

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary