

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday, June 14, 2016

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:45 pm on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members, Frank Esposito, Peter Gallagher, Maureen Kelly, and Dot Stillinger. Absent: Steve Carroll, Marilyn Murray, 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.

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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. 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 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 13, October 4, November 1, December 6 in 2016 and January 10 in 2017.

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the Green Team and CTEC meeting minutes of May 2, 2016 and Maureen Kelly 2nd with all in favor.

Dot Stillinger motion to approve Chatham's participation in the Sustainability Fair with Chatham Borough EC and Maureen Kelly 2nd with all in favor. This fair will take the place of the Green Fair. The fair will take place on Saturday, September 10, from 8 am to 1 pm. Volunteers are needed, ideas for a table display needed. Please mark your calendars and contact Steve if you can give some time.

Steve would like to step down as SJ Team Leader, as he has handled this for the last three years. The township might not be able to pursue SJ without the proper resources.

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

Highland Preservation Resolution – The Highlands Preservation is looking for supporters regarding their resolution pertaining to their goals and purposes. CTEC discussed the resolution and decided that they need more clarification regarding their goals. Members are to review the Highland Council Act and will discuss at the next meeting.

GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

- Volunteers continue to work on trail improvements and cleanup of dump. Projects are available for Scouts and other service groups.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- Westminster Rd., Block 48.09, Lot 16. Application to NJDEP for LOI, general permit and transition area waiver. There is a small area of wetlands behind several houses in this neighborhood which is highly developed. General permit for 750 square feet of addition/reconstruction of a dwelling is routine. Suggest no memo from CTEC to NJDEP required. OPEN

- High Gate development on Long View Avenue. Numerous violations including encroachment into conservation easements and tree non-disturbance easement. Memo to Planning Board has been sent urging complete restoration of all the easement encroachments. CLOSED.

- Loantaka Lane South, Block 139, Lot 15, LOI application dated 4-26-16. The property is 3.23 acres in the R-1 zone (2.5 acre residential) at the southeast corner of Loantaka Lane South and Spring Valley Road. About two-thirds of the property is wetlands but there is a higher area along Spring Valley Road. Much of the property on Loantaka Lane South belongs to the Morris County Park Commission. A letter has been sent to the NJDEP urging great care in delineating and classifying the wetlands since threatened and endangered species (barred owl, wood turtle) have been found in the area. CLOSED.

- CALENDAR BOA 16-144-50 (April 1, 2016) MADS & SARI JEPSEN, 446 GREEN VILLAGE ROAD, BLOCK: 144 LOT 50. 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 owned by R. Gunn. CTEC has submitted several letters to the DEP about this property concerning exceptional resource wetlands and the required 300 foot stream buffer. PENDING.

REPORTS

- Water Quality Subcommittee – Proposing a shared event with the township and borough to address water quality in the area. A representative from NJ American Water would be present and also a wine enthusiast. The event is “Wine & Water of the Chatham’s”. Event to take place in October. Updates to continue as details unfold. P. Gallagher, Chair

- Planning Board - no report
D. Travisano, Planning Board liaison.

- Township Committee and Board of Health – no report
K. Swartz, Township Committee and Board of Health liaison.

- Open Space Committee – no report
Marilyn Murray, Open Space liaison.

- Communications Committee F. Esposito, Chair.

- Website Review - F. Esposito, CTEC webmaster. All outdated material removed. The website updating has been completed.

- Recycling Committee - F. Esposito, Chair, and M. Murray

- Frank was unable to attend the recent MUA meeting. Frank reported on an MUA discussion regarding interest in recycling Styrofoam, although it is indecisive.

- Community Education and Outreach Committee.
F. Esposito, Chair - Problems with e-mail server.

- 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?

- 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

- 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

- May 2016. Memo to Planning Board regarding disturbances of conservation easements in the High Gate subdivision. Letter to NJDEP urging care in delineating and classifying wetlands on a property on Loantaka Lane South.

- 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.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill Environmental Commission.

- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:02

Carolyn Scannelli