

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Wednesday August 7, 2019

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Wednesday, August 7, 2019, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser (phone conference), Maureen Kelly, Amy Mason, Jessica Rome, and Township Committee Liaison Tracy Ness Absent: Dan Miller, Christina Mott, Dot Stillinger, Matt Palmer and Don Trivisano. Also attending, Twp. resident Lisa McHugh Board of Adjustment member.

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 2019 January 2020 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 FOR 2019 - January 2020 Tuesday February 5, Tuesday March 5, Tuesday April 2, Tuesday May 7, Tuesday June 11 (to avoid election day), NO MEETING IN JULY, Wednesday August 7 (changed from Tuesday August 6), Tuesday September 10 (avoid Labor Day), Tuesday October 1, Tuesday November 12 (avoid election day), Tuesday December 10 (changed from Tuesday December 3), Tuesday January 7, 2020.

Maureen Kelly motioned to approve the May 7 and June 11, 2019 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Jessica Romeo 2nd, with all in favor.

Maureen Kelly motioned, Jessica Romeo 2nd, with all in favor the December meeting date was rescheduled from December 3 to December 10, 2019

GREEN TEAM MEETING

Maureen Kelly, Green Team Chair, J. Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair

- 2018 BRONZE CERTIFICATION.

- Look ahead to 2021 and possible Silver certification.

- Possibly implement actions – Considering Resolution renewal for NJ Wild Life Plan.

PESTICIDE REDUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE – Chair Cara Feeser stated that the Township Committee approved organic playing fields for Chatham Township.

PLANNING FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY FAIR ON SEPT 14 – 8 am -1 pm

- Jessica Romero will set up a volunteering schedule through Signupgenius on-line software.

- Maureen Kelly is working on obtaining mesh produce bags for resale at the fair.

ENERGY AGGREGATION PROJECT

Amy Mason, Energy Subcommittee

- Amy prepared a recommendation to the Township Committee regarding entering into an agreement with Good Energy, a community energy aggregation company (<http://www.goodenergy.com>).

The Township Committee would have to approve by ordinance an agreement with Good Energy to provide electrical service to the township. Residents can opt out. All public relations will be managed by Good Energy. Amy or a CTEC member will address the Township Committee at the September meeting, regarding the benefits for implementing this program.

Maureen Kelly motion, Jessica Romeo 2nd, with all in favor for submittal of recommendation letter, FAQ and additional backup documents regarding the energy aggregation project.

NORTH NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

Jessica Romeo, Municipal Alliance Subcommittee

- Discussed a proposed municipal ordinance banning plastic bags and recommending to the Township Committee to introduce for adoption at the September 12th meeting. The need for reducing/reusing is necessary as recycling is not working. CTEC has been at the forefront of NJ environmental leadership. Maureen Kelly motioned, Jessica Romeo 2nd with all in favor the submittal to the Township Committee a proposed ordinance prohibiting the use of plastic bags. Submittal will include recent residential/business survey summary including ShopRite's response, a list of NJ towns that have already banned single-use plastic bags.

- The North Jersey Sustainable Municipal Alliance currently consisting of the environmental commissions of Madison, Chatham Borough and Chatham Township and headed by Jessica Romeo.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- Arbor Green at Chatham (Skate Park site) on Southern Blvd., Block 48.16, Lot 117.27 (portion). 4-15-19. Application to NJDEP for wetlands general permit GP#1 (Maintenance and repair of existing features) and special activity transition area waiver redevelopment. Proposed construction of two, 2-story residential apartment buildings, a 36-space surface parking lot and ancillary improvements including storm water management features and site landscaping. Wetlands occur in the rear of the property and beyond into the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. CTEC commented on the application for a wetlands permit for the cell tower behind the skate park. CTEC has no additional comment to the NJDEP at this time but will follow in other boards. PENDING.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- April 2019. Memo to Board of Adjustment asking for restrictions on a property applying for variances for previously disturbed steep slopes draining to the Great Swamp.
- March 2019. Letters to Senator Richard Codey, Asm. John McKeon and Asm. Mila Jasey urging legislation requiring pesticide-free lawn care on school and municipal playing fields and recreation areas.
- Feb. 2019. Letters to NJDEP, BPU, Rep. Mikie Sherrill concerning PSE&G application for permit to apply pesticide along their right-of-ways to control vegetation.

EVENTS

- Sept. 14, Sustainability Fair.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Monthly financial report
- Minutes of recent meetings of the Long Hill Township and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions

ADJOURN 8:25

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary