

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday, September 10, 2019

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:25 pm on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Amy Mason, Christina Mott, Jessica Romeo (phone conference) and Township Committee Liaison Tracy Ness
Absent: Dan Miller, Dot Stillinger, Matt Palmer and Don Travisano.
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 August 7, 2019 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Cara Feeser 2nd, with all in favor.

Reviewed CTEC and Green Team meeting dates as listed below for 2020 and January 2021. Maureen Kelly motioned to approve dates and Cara Feeser 2nd with all in favor.

Suggest 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 3, December 1 and January 12, 2021.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (8:14-8:24) Maureen Kelly, Green Team Chair, Jessica Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair
- 2018 BRONZE CERTIFICATION.

Will plan to meet with the Township Administrator regarding; 1) adoption of new ordinances that pertain to Sustainable Jersey and would add Sustainable Jersey points for certification. 2) Consider establishing a separate Green Team. The Green Team would like to achieve silver status, and in order to accomplish this, having a separate Green Team with additional members would make this attainable. If approved, recruitment of new members would need to be advertised. Having Silver certification would open up grant possibilities and other opportunities.

PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY FAIR ON SATURDAY, SEPT 14; 8am – 1pm. Discussed and assigned tasks, advertising, handouts, recycling information and established a volunteer schedule, which included set up and break down.

NORTH NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

Jessica Romeo, Municipal Alliance Subcommittee

- Discussed proposed new ordinance "to prohibit use of plastic bags and regulate the use of paper bags by retail establishments within Chatham Township". This ordinance will be introduced at the September 12 Township Committee meeting. CTEC members were asked to come to the meeting and support this ordinance. Many townships have adopted or are in the process of adopting this ordinance (Millburn, Livingston, Parsippany, Paramus, Madison, just to name a few). This ordinance is for residential and business use. Local businesses like CVS and Shoprite are prepared for this change as this type of ordinance goes beyond New Jersey. Once adopted, CTEC will discuss how to circulate this information to the public.

- Jessica will advise Christie Tragno, Township recycling coordinator of this proposed ordinance.

- If authorized is received from the MUA, Liz Sweedy will submit an endorsement letter.

NEW JERSEY'S CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM

Amy Mason, Energy Subcommittee

- Discussed recommending to the Township Committee a Government Energy Aggregation program for renewable energy. Amy will draft a memo to the Township Committee outlining the benefits and a sample ordinance. Memo will be reviewed by CTEC members before beginning sent. Amy is available for any questions or concerns.

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 stormwater 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.**

NOTES AND ANY OTHER DISCUSSION

- 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.
- Pilgrim oil pipeline
- 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> for detailed Pilgrim 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.

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

- ANJEC'S 46th Annual Environmental Congress Friday, Oct. 4, 2019 9:00 am to 4:30 pm Mercer County Community College, West Windsor, NJ
- Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions, Saturday, Oct. 26, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm, Bell Works, 101 Crawford's Corner Rd. Holmdel. Free for CTEC members. Visit anjec.org for more information. A full morning of training on how to be an effective member of a municipal environmental commission. Our 2019 program is newly updated and will include breakout sessions on Stormwater Regulations and Environmental Commission Management with more hands-on training and networking opportunity.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Notices of LOI and General Permit requests
- Newsletters
- Monthly financial report
- Minutes of recent meetings of the Long Hill Township and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions.

ADJOURN 8:25

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary

