

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928 - 973-635-4600

Due to lack of a quorum, no formal action was taken at the Tuesday, September 11, 2018 meeting.

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Frank Esposito, Maureen Kelly and Jessica Romeo. Absent: Cara Feeser, Christina Mott, Matt Palmer, Dot Stillinger, Don Travisano and Township Committee Liaison Karen Swartz.

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 2018 January 2019 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 2018 AND JANUARY 2019
Tuesday February 6, Tuesday March 6, Tuesday April 3, Tuesday May 1, Tuesday June 12 (avoid Primary Election day), no meeting in July, Tuesday August 7, Tuesday September 11 (avoid Labor Day), Tuesday October 2, Tuesday November 13 (avoid Election Day), Tuesday December 4, Tuesday January 8, 2019.

Due to lack of a quorum, CTEC and Green Team Minutes of June 12, 2018 were not approved.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:20-7:35) M. Kelly - Green Team Chair, J. Romeo - Green Team Vice Chair, Received bronze certification. Looking ahead to 2021 and possible work towards attaining Silver certification. Recommendation of a Green Team Subcommittee to review items and points was suggested if attaining Silver Certification was desired. Some items can be recertified ex. Natural Resource Inventory. Perhaps pursue something aggressive ex; vehicle charging station. Jessica Romeo suggested a 30 day community challenge. Municipal energy audit has been redone by S. Carroll, former chair of the Green Team.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY APPLICATION SUBMITTED IN JUNE 2018 FOR 200 POINTS

Congratulations to Steve Carroll for once again submitting more than the required number of points for Sustainable Jersey certification for Chatham Township. Steve requested approval for 19 actions worth 200 points. Need approval for 150 points to qualify for Bronze certification. One of the actions was an energy audit for the Township, which involved examining fuel and energy bills for all township operations. Steve could frequently be seen at Township Hall entering figures into a spreadsheet. Thanks for all those endless hours, Steve, and for the detailed and time consuming work of preparing all the action items in the form required by Sustainable Jersey.

ROLLING KNOLLS COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP MEETING MONDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2018, 7-8:30 PM AT THE REFUGE'S HELEN FENSKE VISITOR CENTER AT 32 PLEASANT PLAINS RD., BASKING RIDGE.

The Great Swamp Watershed Association has organized a Community Action Group to advocate for a sensible cleanup plan for the Rolling Knolls Superfund landfill at the end of Britten Road. The EPA plan is to do little cleanup and surround most of the polluted fill with a chain link fence and No Trespassing signs. The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge would like to see most of the refuse buried in pits excavated on the property, then covered with the soil from the pits which would be replanted with native species. The pits would have bottoms of the natural clay found beneath all of the landfill and which is impervious to leaching. Long Hill Township and Harding Township have passed resolutions endorsing the Refuge's plan. All CTEC members and any interested residents are invited to attend.

REPORT ON SUSTAINABILITY FAIR HELD ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

The Sustainability Fair was a joint project of the Chatham Borough and Chatham Township environmental commissions. CTEC table was staffed, handed out recycling material. Well attended. Residents signed pledge for "no chemicals on lawn".

REPORT ON TICK INFORMATION PROGRAM - coordinated by Jessica Romeo Program was held on May 16, 2018, this interactive program kept attendees interested in learning about ticks. Speaker was Stephanie Singer from the Morris County Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Sponsored by the Chatham Township Environmental Commission and the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission.

PILGRIM PIPELINE – Discussion ensued regarding the township's current involvement in the pipeline, if it is being monitored and who is the dedicated Township liaison.

Rumors that Pilgrim is beginning to apply for permits. 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.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

24A Long Hill Lane, Block 14, lot 62, 9-5-18. Massive wetland violation and dumping of earth onto private property (owned by the Great Swamp Watershed Association). Construction of an access driveway into Long Hill Lane without Township or DEP permits. Earth and logs used to fill wetlands, disturbance of wetlands and transition areas, illegal dumping onto private property, trespassing. Over half of the property is in wetlands and contains two tributaries which drain into the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge 1000 feet downstream. Township construction officer, Township engineer, the NJDEP, and GSWA are investigating. **PENDING.**

446 Green Village Road, Mads & Sari Jepsen, Block 144, Lot 50, April 1, 2016, 10-28-17. 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, resubmitted on 10-28-17. This is the unoccupied house on Green Village Road adjacent to Loantaka Brook at the intersection with Britten Road previously owned by R. Gunn with M. Jepsen as the contract purchaser. CTEC has submitted several letters to the DEP about this property concerning its exceptional resource wetlands and the required 300 foot stream buffer. We have asked the Board of Adjustment to request a conservation easement on most of the wetlands. Approved March 15, 2018 with the condition that a conservation easement be placed on the property. CTEC will obtain a copy of the easement when it's finalized. **PENDING.**

11 Sunset Drive, Golden River Homes LLC, Block 61, Lot 16. 10-16-17. Application to Board of Adjustment, requesting variances for construction of a single family home. Steep slopes, drains to Great Swamp, previous application to BOA was denied. Application was approved on June 21. **CLOSED.**

- 341 Green Village Road, Aleksandra Bury, Block 48.17, Lot 133. Application to the Board of Adjustment requesting front yard and side yard setback variances for a reconstruction on existing foundation. Incomplete on 8/14/17. A tributary of Black Brook almost bisects the property, wetlands are found on the rear of the property, rear property line adjoins Chatham Township property, which is almost all wetlands. Application 4-24-18 to NJDEP for wetlands permits 8, 10B and 24 for house and driveway addition and septic replacement. Wetlands permits have been obtained. CTEC will follow this application. **PENDING.**

REPORTS

Climate Focus Subcommittee - J. Romeo, Chair.

Note sustainability resolution recently passed by the Township Committee.

Discussed working on a plastic bag and straw ban program for Chatham.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. population uses 380 billion plastic bags in one year.

-Point Pleasant is pushing for a ban.

-Jersey City, looks like they are working on it.

-Long Beach Township has a ban.

-Teaneck has a ban – which was initiated by a Girl Scout!

-Longport has a ban.

-Ventnor has a ban.

California has banned plastic bags, statewide, 2016.

In Puerto Rico, lawmakers passed a ban in late 2015. An island-wide ban went into effect one year later.

In NY, lawmakers, including Governor Cuomo, are championing a ban on single-use plastic bags.

Recycling Committee - F. Esposito, Chair

Discussed taking an inventory of the township's recycling containers, as it seems there are not enough recycling bins throughout the town which leads to trash on fields.

Review of the Tonnage report is down from this time last year. Speculation on reasons such as glass bottles have been changed to plastic, plastic bottles are thin and light weight, people do not want to store two weeks of recycling for pickup and maybe dropping off at Tanglewood and people are not recycling.

F. Esposito, is going to contact MUA to get clarification on the report.

Invasive Species Subcommittee - M. Palmer, Chair

Spotted lanternfly has appeared in NJ. It is found on Tree of Heaven, black walnut, red maple, and wild grapevines at the edges of wood lines. It feeds on plant juices. Be on the lookout.

Has anyone noticed the small circular silver tags with individual numbers being nailed to trees? You can look at several at the entrance to the Green Village Pond Trail on Green Village Rd. The Morris County Park Commission is inventorying ash trees to document the spread of the emerald ash borer.

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. Look for little D-shaped holes in the tree bark.

Could the NY State DEC plan to control invasive species be a model for NJ?

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. Search for more detailed information about a parcel at <http://mcweb1.co.morris.nj.us/MCTaxBoard/>. Use Microsoft Internet Explorer for both.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

February 2018. Memo to Board of Adjustment regarding unauthorized clearcutting on a Club Road parcel and request for conservation easement on the wetland transition area portion. Memo to Board of Adjustment requesting conservation easement on portion of a property being developed on Green Village Road which is almost entirely wetlands or transition areas.

MAIL RECEIVED

Monthly financial report

Minutes of recent meetings of the Long Hill Township and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions

ADJOURN 8:15

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary

