

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday September 12, 2017

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:28 pm on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll (left 7:48), Frank Esposito, Cara Feeser and Maureen Kelly. Absent: Peter Gallagher, Matt Palmer, Jessica Romeo, Dot Stillinger 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.

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.

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the June 13, 2017 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Maureen Kelly 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:29-7:43) - S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

Reviewed potential actions for June 2018 recertification. Discussed an upcoming event for New Jersey Mayors' Climate Summit, Oct 7th; Steve Carroll and Dot Stillinger will be attending, all are welcome. Report on September 9th, Sustainability Fair. Steve thanked Maureen and Cara for their help. CTEC had many visitors at their table.

PARIS AGREEMENT DISCUSSION – Moved to October meeting.

Jessica Romeo, Cara Feeser

- Action steps the Township can take to affirm its commitment to reducing the effects of climate change.
- Review materials from Madison Green Forum in June.
- Climate Focus Subcommittee report.

PLASTIC BAG REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Discussed the reduction in plastic bag use. Plastic bag recycling bins are located at many food stores. Reusing, recycling and reducing plastic bags for less trash for landfills and better for the environment. Chatham Borough participated in a plastic bag trade in recycling program for a park bench.

FACEBOOK REVIEW

Cara stated nothing new to report.

WORKDAY 2018 – Discussed feasible options, maybe the river. Move to October meeting.

- Discussed possible projects, maybe a collaborative activity with the Refuge.

WEBSITE REVIEW

F. Esposito, CTEC webmaster. Webpage is up to date.

GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

- An Eagle Scout candidate, Ethan Atkins, plans to build a bench and kiosk at the trailhead on Green Village Road.
- Volunteers continue to work on trail improvement and cleanup of dump material along the footpath. 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.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- 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

- Recycling Committee F. Esposito, Chair

Next MUA recycling meeting, October in E. Hanover. Frank will attend and report back. Discussed the trash compactor's status at Tanglewood. Members were wondering if this had been completed. It would replace all but one of the dumpsters.

Reviewed Tonnage report.

Frank suggested watching a YouTube for an explanation on the recycling process for aluminum, plastic, glass, and paper through educational **videos** about waste management.

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.
- 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

New Jersey Mayors' Climate Summit, Saturday, October 7, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm. Somerset Municipal Building, 475 Demott Lane, Somerset, NJ Free – Early Bird \$10; Oct 1 \$25; Students \$10 RSVP - bit.ly/NJMayorsClimateSummit
- ANJEC 44th Annual Environmental Congress, Friday, October 13, 9:00am -4:30pm, The Conference Center at Mercer County College, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor. \$65 if you register before Sept. 29.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Monthly financial report.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 8:30

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary