

Chatham Township Environmental Commission  
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600  
Minutes of the Tuesday, September 13, 2016

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:45 pm on Tuesday, September 13, 2016, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members, Steve Carroll, Peter Gallagher, Maureen Kelly, Marilyn Murray and Karen Swartz (7:20-7:45). Absent: Frank Esposito, Matt Palmer, 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.

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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](http://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.

Maureen Kelly motioned to approve the Green Team and CTEC meeting minutes of June 14, 2016 and Peter Gallagher 2<sup>nd</sup> with all in favor.

#### GREEN TEAM MEETING

Steve thanked, Karen and Maureen for their assistance with the Sustainability Fair. Big Jeff and Rizzo's Reptiles were a success. Sustainable Jersey has new goal standards for energy and recycling. BPU grants for electric vehicle charging stations. Maybe be good for schools/teachers.

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

#### REVIEW RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR HIGHLANDS PRESERVATION

Action deferred to next meeting. Attending EC members have conflicting reservations. Review Highlands Coalition resolution for possible adoption by CTEC and recommendation to Township Committee for their passage of the resolution.

#### APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- 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 – Peter Gallagher has organized a “Drinking Water Quality Event” “Water and Wine” with Chatham Borough to educate residence regarding local drinking water. This will be a social event with educational information from representatives such as NJ American Water and Garden State Labs, a water testing company and possibly another 1 or 2 other speakers. Event to take place on Thursday, October 13. Venue still to be determined. Advertising with the Patch, Tap, flyers etc. P. Gallagher, Water Quality Committee Chair

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

- Township Committee and Board of Health – The Township Committee continues to address low and moderate housing and is looking at the skate park and Averett property as land in need of rehabilitation and Dixiedale Farms zone change to fulfill fair share housing requirements.  
K. Swartz, Township Committee liaison.

- Open Space Committee  
Volunteers continue to work on trail improvements at the Averett property.  
Marilyn Murray, Open Space liaison.

- Communications Committee – no report  
F. Esposito, Chair.

- Recycling Committee - F. Esposito, Chair, and M. Murray  
Without recycling pickups due to holiday conflicts, residents turn to Tanglewood for drop-off. Due to the large amounts of recycling, Tanglewood is not being properly maintained. EC would still like to see weekly pickups.

- Community Education and Outreach Committee. no report  
F. Esposito, Chair.

## 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?
- 2016 ECOCHALLENGE. org: OCTOBER 14-28. Challenge yourself to choose 1 action to reduce your impact and stick with it for 2 weeks. You pick your Challenge and set a goal that stretches your comfort zone and makes a difference for you, your community and the planet.

#### 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.

#### EVENTS

- September 30, 2016. ANJEC 43rd Annual Environmental Congress, "Responding to Climate Change Locally,"  
9:00am -4:30pm, The Conference Center at Mercer County College, West Windsor. Info at <http://www.anjec.org/ConfWorkshops.htm>. \$65 (\$80 after Sept. 15).

#### MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill Environmental Commission.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 8:35

Carolyn Scannelli