

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday, October 1, 2019

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser (phone conference), Maureen Kelly, Amy Mason, Christina Mott, Jessica Romeo and Dot Stillinger. Absent: Township Committee Liaison Tracy Ness, Dan Miller, Matt Palmer and Don Travisano.

Also attending, township resident/BOA member Lisa McHugh and township resident Midu Kaur.

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.

APPROVED DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS FOR 2020 AND JANUARY 2021 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.

Maureen Kelly motioned to approve the September 19, 2019 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Jessica Romeo 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:39-8:12) Maureen Kelly, Green Team Chair, Jessica Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair - 2018 BRONZE CERTIFICATION ACHIEVED.

Reviewed multiple actions for 2021 recertification. The Green Team is moving ahead with plans to be a subcommittee. A few additional members are needed. Possible January resolution approval for subcommittee formation. With additional members, silver status should be attainable.

Discussed the award of contract to Lincoln Landscaping for safe playing fields. When comparing both bids, one bidder was not specific to the specifications. Therefore, the contract was awarded to Lincoln Landscaping for the remainder of 2019. Lincoln Landscaping was also contracted for 2020. The contract is for weed control, pesticides treatment and organic lawn treatment.

REPORT ON SUSTAINABILITY FAIR ON SEPT 14 – Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help and make this year's fair a success. Thank you to Library of the Chatham's for letting CTEC borrow their pop-up tent for this event. Also attending the fair was Associate Educator, Adam Palmer of the Great Swamp Watershed, who brought a few tubs of stream water for hands-on educational dissecting of underwater life. Also, ShopRite attended and sold mesh produce bags, many were purchased. Jessica and Christina created a fun trash/recycling sorting game, which was well received. The event was well attended.

NORTH NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE Jessica Romeo, Municipal Alliance Subcommittee - Discuss the plastic bag ban ordinance, which is up for adoption on Oct. 10. Other towns that are considering a similar ordinance are Summit, Chatham Borough, Livingston, and Millburn.

Once adopted, information will be sent to township businesses. ShopRite, CVS, and other businesses are aware and eager to comply.

NEW JERSEY'S CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM Amy Mason, Energy Subcommittee – Moving forward with the energy aggregation partnership in 2020. Amy will schedule a meeting with the energy consultant, TC member Ness and Twp Administrator to further review and discussion. Other neighboring towns are also interested in partnering.

PLAN FOR COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY IN SPRING – Green Village Pond area, April 2020. Work towards a pleasant picnic and pond area.

JCP&L VEGETATION FOR LOCATION DISCUSSION

JCP&L has a site location where you can Select the Right Tree and Vegetation for your location.

When planting trees around distribution overhead power lines typically found in residential areas, homeowners can help prevent service interruptions and minimize the need for pruning in the future - just by following a few simple guidelines.

With concerns or questions, call [Contact Center](tel:1-800-662-3115) 1-800-662-3115 and ask for our regional Forestry Services Staff.

<https://www.firstenergycorp.com/help/safety/trees/tree-location.html>

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 Crawfords 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 9:05

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary