

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

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:26 pm on Tuesday, October 2, 2018, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Frank Esposito, Maureen Kelly, Christina Mott, Dot Stillinger and Township Committee Liaison Karen Swartz. Absent: Matt Palmer, Jessica Romeo and Don Trivisano.

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](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 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.

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the June 12, 2018 CTEC and Green Team Minutes and the meeting notes from September 22, 2018 and Maureen Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

Christine Tragno, Chatham Township Recycling Coordinator discussed MUA 2019 recycling change for the township. Members reviewed items that can and cannot be recycled, some things are recyclable, just not in Chatham Twp. Plastic bags are to be recycled at food stores. MUA occasionally addresses homeowners by informing them why their recycling was not picked up. Harding Twp will accept electronic waste.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (8:20-8:30) Maureen Kelly, Green Team Chair, J. Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair

- Awaiting on Bronze Certification approval. To be reviewed: Natural Resource Inventory, ordinance regarding solar power and electric charging stations. 2021 is next certification date; possible try for Silver certification.

REVIEW OF ROLLING KNOLLS COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP MEETING MONDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2018, 7-8:30 PM MEETING 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. CTEC members Christine Mott, Jessica Romeo and Cara Feeser attended the meeting. It was suggested that the Township have a representative there. All interested residents are invited to attend.

GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA – Trail work continues, volunteers are welcome.

ISSUE - PILGRIM PIPELINE

- 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

- Planning Board – D. Travisano, Planning Board liaison. – Many recent meetings have been cancelled, as there are no cases to be heard.
  - Township Committee - K. Swartz, Township Committee liaison – The committee continues to discuss the affordable housing and the skate park site. This large piece of land does have wetlands and a wooded area which would need a buffer. The Township committee is assuring that the project will be tastefully done and blend into the area.
  - Communications Committee - F. Esposito, Chair.
    - WEBSITE REVIEW - F. Esposito, CTEC webmaster. Continues to be updated with resourceful local information.
    - Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito.
  - Recycling Committee - F. Esposito, Chair
    - F. Esposito attended the Municipal recycling coordinators meeting Monday, Sept. 24. The speakers were from Republic services, the company now running the recycling plant in Mine Hill. The primary discussions were about the quality of the recycling material and the current market for recycling material. It was also noted that the goal for recycle is 50 % waste and 50% recycle.
    - Morris County as a whole is 53% recycle and 47 % waste, a credit to the towns for a great job. Posted to CTEC website are three sheets covering items that need to be recycled and items not to recycle and one on metal, which is new.
- HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT WILL BE HELD AT CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL ON SATURDAY OCT 13, 2018.

Also, discussed the Rocket composter at the high school. Frank will contact the HS to see if the composter is being used.

CTEC members are interested in visiting the Mine Hill recycling facility.

- Tonnage report. According to the Dept of Environmental protection Chatham Township made the list of top 10 towns in Morris County. Tonnage does continue to decrease.

• 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.



Emerald Ash Borer ID photo with U.S. penny to show size of the pest and its exit hole from an ash tree branch.

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.

EVENTS

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of recent meetings of the Long Hill Township and Chatham Borough

ADJOURN 9:40

Carolyn Scannelli Minutes  
Secretary



