

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday October 3, 2017

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:26 pm on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Jessica Romeo, Dot Stillinger and Gigi Graham, Great Swamp Water Shed Ambassador. Absent: Frank Esposito, Peter Gallagher, Matt Palmer, 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.

Steve Carroll motioned to approve the September 12, 2017 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Maureen Kelly 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:36-7:44) - S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.
Review & work on potential actions due for June 2018 recertification. Cara expressed adding Green Team interests and actions to the CTEC Facebook page to inform and get the community involved.

PILGRIM PIPELINE

- As there has not been any updates to the community regarding the pipeline and no reappointment of a Township Committee liaison once Bob Gallop left, Ctec discussed sending a memo to the Township Committee regarding updates and forming an advisory board, to update the community. Jessica Romeo motion to send a memo to the TC proposing creating an advisory board and Maureen Kelly 2nd, with all members in favor. Ctec feels this is an important issue and are willing to help out in anyway.
- Waiting on report from P. Gallagher on the June 13 pipeline meeting at the library sponsored by the New Jersey Sierra Club.
- Visit <http://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=af162ec18761444b929957b8c82ab903> for detailed 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.
- Discuss next steps, possibly a public event with maps showing which residents will be directly affected or a mailing to residents adjacent to the proposed pipeline route.

OPEN SPACE PURCHASE DISCUSSION of property located on River Road, the Township Committee at their September meeting approved a Bond Ordinance acquisition of real property for Open Space Purposes.

PARIS AGREEMENT – discussed updating the 2006 proclamation for climate change. Steve will get the information needed for this action and Jessica will request 2006 proclamation. This can be used towards Sustainable Jersey Points. Jessica Romeo, Cara Feeser

PLASTIC BAG REPLACEMENT PROJECT

- Replace plastic grocery shopping bags with reusable totes – recently Belmar NJ Environmental Commission proposed a logo contest for students to design a reusable tote bag, the bags were donated by local sponsors. This is to encourage residents to reuse and reduce plastic grocery bags. Ctec is considering this new project.

WORKDAY 2018

- Date will be set at November meeting, location to be determined. Possibly trail improvement at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area or another location.

GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA – no recent updates on these projects.

- An Eagle Scout candidate, Ethan Atkins, plans to build a bench and kiosk at the trailhead on Green Village Road.

- The Park Commission will work on trails in the Oak Knoll region after it finally acquires title to the Platt property, which still needs to go through probate. A gravel parking area is planned for the Platt property next to the post office.

- 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 CTEC 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

• FACEBOOK REVIEW

“Chatham Township Environment Commission” page is growing with “likes”. Informative information is added on a continuing basis. Cara Feeser, EC Facebook admin.

• Pesticide Reduction Subcommittee. C. Feeser, Chair

- Report of Cara's meeting with Tom Ciccarone concerning pesticides on Township playing fields. Mr. Ciccarone is receptive to exploring organic options.

- The Chatham schools do not use any pesticides on lawns or playing fields. Use of pesticides at schools is regulated by the state (<http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/pcp-ipm.htm>). A "Safe Playing Fields Act" (S541) has been introduced. A local group is considering taking action on pesticide reduction.

CTEC URGES RESIDENTS TO CONSIDER USING FEW AND ONLY ORGANIC PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

• Checkout - NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb/splash.htm>. Use Internet Explorer.

• Checkout - 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 aerial 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

- 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

- Rutgers Student Action Group, Thursday, October 5, at Rutgers Newark. Jeff Tittel will be speaking about how the Sierra Club was successful in getting the referendum on this year's ballot to constitutionally dedicate monies from natural resource damage lawsuits. 7-9 PM, 100 Engelhard Hall, 190 University Ave. Newark. Free.
- 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 9:00

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary