

Chatham Township Environmental Commission  
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600  
Minutes of the Tuesday, November 1, 2016

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:25 pm on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members, Steve Carroll, Frank Esposito, Peter Gallagher, Maureen Kelly, Dot Stillinger and Karen Swartz. Absent: Matt Palmer and Don Trivisano.

Also attending the meeting was township resident Cara Feeser and Scouts from Troop121 Jared and Jake Simonetti, and Jonathan Field who are working towards their communication merit badge and the mother's Gayle Simonetti and Andrea Field.

**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 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 (CANCELED), September 13, October 4, November 1, December 6 in 2016 and January 10 in 2017.

Steve Carroll motioned to approve the September 13, 2016 and October 4, 2016 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Frank Esposito 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

**GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:35-7:58)**

Reviewed attainable points towards Bronze 2018 goal and assigned members some tasks to research. Steve explained the Sustainable Jersey program to the scouts. S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

**GRATEFUL THANKS TO MARILYN MURRAY FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE ON CTEC**

Marilyn is stepping down to spend more time on service projects with her church. CTEC extends its warmest thanks and gratitude for her hard work on committees, recycling, Open Space Liaison and on the annual workday.

**APPROVE DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS IN 2017 AND JANUARY 2018**

Suggest 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 (to avoid New Year's weekend). Steve Carroll motion to approve the 2017 and January 2018 meeting schedule and Frank Esposito 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

## REVIEW HIGHLANDS COALITION RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE HIGHLANDS ACT

CTEC has conflicting opinions and will take action at the December meeting regarding the Highlands Coalition resolution, if adopted by CTEC; a recommendation to Township Committee for their passage would be made.

Although most of Chatham Township's drinking water comes from the Passaic River, in times of drought water from the Highlands is pumped into our system. It is in the interest of Chatham Township to have clean drinking water from the Highlands available when needed. Passing the Highlands Coalition resolution in support would be a step towards that goal.

The purpose of an approval is to add our names to the list of supporters to bolster pressure on Governor Christie to stop weakening Highlands's protections.

## PILGRIM PIPELINE UPDATE

Committeewomen Swartz stated that Committeeman Gallop is the liaison for the Pilgrim Pipeline and does keep abreast and reports back to the Township Committee.

## GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

- Saturday, November 19, 1-2 PM. Dot and Frank Stillinger will guide a walk on the trail, existing and proposed, out to the Kirby Meadow. Ideas on location and signage welcome. Wear sturdy shoes, bring camera and binoculars. OK for families, Scouts wishing ideas for projects, anyone who enjoys nature. Parking is along Green Village Road, near Shop-Rite, across from Melrose Lane.

- Volunteers continue to work on trail improvement and cleanup of dump. 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.

## BEARS

Two bears have been occasionally sighted on Huron Drive and have been perceived as a possible threat to children on their way to/from school. The Township Committee is considering allowing bear hunting on private property. In Vermont a law bans intentionally feeding or baiting bears and prohibits killing nuisance bears without first taking reasonable non-lethal measures. Bear-proof trash can lids and careful attention to bird feeders and other food left outside are urged.

## APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- Block 48.21, Lot 174.02, 503 Green Village Rd., 9-15-16, application to NJDEP for General Permit to repair a malfunctioning septic system. No comment from CTEC needed. **CLOSED.**
- Block 62, Lot 76, 440 River Rd., 9-19-16, application to NJDEP for General Permit to repair a malfunctioning septic system. No comment from CTEC needed. **CLOSED.**
- Mott MacDonald, October 14, 2016, notice of the Township of Chatham's intent to undertake a project to replace the existing UV disinfection system at the wastewater treatment plant on Tanglewood Lane with a bigger one. No comment from CTEC needed. **CLOSED.**
- Mott MacDonald, adjacent to Block 142, Lot 1, September 8, 2016, application to NJDEP for wetlands General Permit for Woodland Road culvert maintenance. No comment from CTEC needed. **CLOSED.**
- Mott MacDonald, June 14, 2016, application to NJDEP for Wetlands General Permit No. 17 for placement of a 6' wide paved asphalt pathway along Woodland Road extending from the existing pathway to Treadwell Avenue. This has been under discussion since the beginning of the Giralda project. Suggest no comment required from CTEC. **CLOSED.**
- Block 48.05, Lot 2, 36 Glenmere Drive, August 23, 2016, application to the NJDEP for general permit for site grading activities. Minor grading for residential improvement. No comment from CTEC needed. **CLOSED.**
- ARKAD Group and PK Environmental, Block 48.14, Lot 113.12, 6 Jay Rd., August 22, 2016, application to the NJDEP for LOI and Flood Hazard Area General Permit #6. The FHA GP#6 is requested for authorization of a regulated residential activity that is not located within a fluvial flood hazard area, but it situated within a previously disturbed 300-foot Riparian Zone from an off-site Category One (C1)

designated watercourse, which is a tributary of the Black Brook. Minor disturbance for residential improvement. No comment from CTEC needed. **CLOSED.**

- E2 Project Management LLC for Verizon Wireless, Block 48.14, Lot110, Southern Boulevard (PSE&G right-of-way), July 22, 2016, application to NJDEP for Wetlands General Permit No. 2, Transition Area Waiver Re-development Plan, FHA Applicability Determination, for a proposed wireless communication facility to be located within a previously-disturbed wetland transition area. Suggest no comment needed since area has been previously disturbed and wetlands have been either avoided or restored. **CLOSED.**

- Transco, existing natural gas pipeline facilities along its entire pipeline system, August 5, 2016, application to NJDEP for renewal of Transco's existing Statewide Maintenance Permit including a Wetlands GP#1 and FHA permit. The application refers to Chatham Tet In, Mainline Caldwell "B" loop, Mainline Caldwell "D" loop and Mainline Caldwell "D" loop CS505 LNCHR 1 in Chatham Township. There are gas lines in Chatham Township in the PSE&G right-of-way and near the post office trending north, west and north into Loantaka Park and trending south parallel to Southern Blvd in the Great Swamp. The north/west gas pipeline ROW marks the boundary between the Green Village Pond Conservation Area and the former Platt tract. Some disturbances in gas pipeline ROWS have been observed to be serious. CTEC comment may be desirable. **PENDING.**

- Block 48.09, Lot 16, 99 Westminster Rd., May 23, 2016. Application to NJDEP for LOI, General Permit and Individual Transition Area Waiver for clearing of vegetation and expansion of structure for house addition. Approved by NJDEP. **CLOSED.**

- Block 144, Lot 50, 446 Green Village Road, April 1, 2016, Mads & Sari Jepsen, 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 P. Gallagher, Chair

### DRINKING WATER QUALITY EVENT

Peter Gallagher reported on the drinking water quality event held at Charlie Brown's restaurant on Thursday Oct. 20, 2016. There were 4 speakers: from NJ American Water, from Garden State Labs, from an interior water piping contractor (Pipe Works, Inc) and Kate Murphy, Chair of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission who spoke about the sources of the Borough's drinking water. There were about 24 attendees and many good questions. Peter is considering planning another water event in the future.

- Township Committee and Board of Health Liaison - K. Swartz – BOH approved 2 new septic applications. TC approved sidewalk for Snake Hill portion of Southern Blvd.

- Open Space Committee

Due to Marilyn Murray resignation from CTEC, a new liaison to Open Space Committee is needed and once appointed to CTEC, Cara Feeser accepted the position as the liaison.

- Communications Committee F. Esposito, Chair.

- Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito. Chatham Township launched a new website and all information is up to date. <http://www.chathamtownship.org/>

- Recycling Committee F. Esposito, Chair

- A trash compactor at Tanglewood is being provided to the Township by the MCMUA at no extra cost to the town. This would replace all but one of the dumpsters. Without weekly pickup, Tanglewood is the option most people should use. Reviewed Tonnage report through August 2016.

- Community Education and Outreach Committee.

- 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 and Nash Field to Green Village Road.

## 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

### GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

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## MAIL RECEIVED

- Several wetlands permit applications (see above).
- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill Environmental Commission.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:20

Carolyn Scannelli