

MINUTES

Chatham Township Environmental Commission

Tuesday November 4, 2014, 7:15 PM at the Township Municipal Building. The meeting will end no later than 9:45 PM.

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 2014 and January 2015 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, join the discussions and participate in projects.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2014 AND JANUARY 2015

Every first Tuesday February through December 2014 and the second Tuesday in January 2015.

February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July NO MEETING, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2 in 2014 and January 13 in 2015.

Meeting opened at 7:15 p.m.

Attending: Frank Esposito, Steve Carroll, Marilyn Murry, Mike Kelly, George Crimmins, Curt Ritter (Township Committee liaison), Dot Stillinger

APPROVED GREEN TEAM AND CTEC MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2014

NOTE CORRECTION: Please note correction to Sept. minutes. Tom Salvas should be referred to as the Township liaison to City Connections which serves as the Township web master; he is not the Township web master.

CONGRATULATIONS to Don and Patti Travasano on the arrival of their new baby, Amelia Rose! Very best wishes from all of us at CTEC.

GREEN TEAM MEETING

- Work ahead on Sustainable Jersey points for 2016. Planning Board has adopted the NRI as an element of the Master Plan as required for 20 SJ points and intends to pass a formal resolution.

- New SJ actions. The Environmental Commission Site Plan Review action looks achievable.

- Need additional people on the GT. Everyone is welcome to attend EC meetings to learn more about joining the Green Team.

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

SET DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS IN 2015 AND JANUARY 2016

- Tuesdays February through December 2015 and the second Tuesday in January 2016.

Dates are: February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 9, July NO MEETING, August 4, September 8, October 6, November 10, December 1 in 2015 and January 12 in 2016.

TREE PROJECT

- Planted 2 trees at SBS last week, both red maples. Trees are in a tub, probably weight 60-70 pounds.

- Joe Dunn, head of the Morris County Soil Conservation District, is doing an inventory of the remaining Chatham Township trees over the winter so we can know how many trees we will have available in spring. Maybe plant one or two at the entrance to Green Village Pond Conservation Area on Green Village Road. Maybe some at municipal building. Plan to line up sites over the winter so planting can start promptly in spring. Identify sites for street trees. Replace trees in strip between sidewalk and street where original trees have died. There are apparently many street trees that have died and need replacing. This may need to be a separate project.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROPOFF PROGRAM

It is operating smoothly in the Township. Drugs collected are taken to a special state site for incineration.

REPORT ON ANJEC CONGRESS

Mike, Steve, Dot, and Kathy Abbott attended. Tom Kean and Judith Enck spoke. Workshops included Reviewing Development Applications, Open Space Preservation, Stream Daylighting. CTEC received an ANJEC award for the rain garden at Southern Boulevard School. Congratulations to all the hardworking volunteers and students who created a beautiful and functional rain garden. It is capturing stormwater that otherwise would contribute to excess sediment and pollutants entering the Great Swamp.

NOTES

Will discuss Pilgrim pipeline next time.

Lot grading plan ordinance update passed. CTEC will review it next time.

Board of Adjustment has a large number of applications for upgrades to existing houses, possible result of McMansion syndrome, people wanting to improve their homes to McMansion standards to be able to sell at an increased price.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- GOLDEN RIVER HOMES, LLC, 11 SUNSET DRIVE, BLOCK: 61 LOT: 16. Complete 6/13/2014. Application to the Board of Adjustment for steep slope variance. The lot is vacant and slopes steeply down toward Fairmount Ave. Memo sent to Board of Adjustment on August 20 has been approved by CTEC. Application will be continued before the Board of Adjustment..

REPORTS

- Planning Board

Planning Board has sent letter to Township Committee recommending inclusion of the Green Checklist in the application checklist. A professional will compile all the parts of the Circulation Element into a single document. Planning Board approved incorporating the NRI into the Master Plan. D. Travisano.

- Township Committee

Giralda purchase. Open Space Institute made a presentation to the Township Committee, the Committee is moving the purchase forward. The Morris County Open Space Committee will make a recommendation to the Morris County Freeholders, the Freeholders will vote on the grant in early November.

C. Ritter, Township Committee liaison.

- Open Space Committee

Progress on getting grants for purchase of Giralda property. M. Kelly, Open Space Committee liaison.

- Communications Committee

Archive page on EC website is an excellent resource, serves as backup for important files. Township website has been updated and problems addressed with the CTEC website. Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito who will work with Township Web Master Tom Salvas. F. Esposito, Chair.

- Recycling Committee

- Recycling in the condos, which have 20% of the Township population, have a problem storing recyclables for two weeks. Frank gave a presentation on recycling at a joint condo meeting, Hazel England spoke on obtaining good drinking water, have to remove fertilizer from river water.

- Progress in creating a survey using Survey Monkey to gauge public interest in weekly recycling pickup. M. Palmer.

- Progress in getting quote from MUA for weekly pickup of recyclables. Progress in getting weekly pickup into the Township budget. F. Esposito, as CTEC recycling chair, contacts Township and County recycling officials to obtain information and bring it back to the EC for discussion.

- Community Education and Outreach Committee.

CTEC receives several e-mails every day. F. Esposito responds and archives the messages. M. Kelly and F. Esposito, Chair.

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- What is the Township position on keeping bees? Bees are becoming stressed. Note that the Morris County Mosquito Commission routinely sprays Bti from airplanes on many waterbodies in the county.

- Bears have been sighted on Huron Drive. Bear workshop was held in November. EC bear education project? Update NRI with a section on bears?

- Invasive Species Subcommittee

- New Jersey has an invasive species strike force (www.njisst.org) which is mapping invasive species and looking for volunteers.
- 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, not Chrome.
- Very good Morris County mapping utility at <http://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher.html>. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer.
- Discussion about requiring subdivision and site plans and related documents to be submitted in pdf format. If that happens CTEC should be on the list to receive all pdf plans and documents. Currently the township requires applicants to submit 25 paper copies of every sheet and document, which amounts to a large stack of paper and is costly for the applicant.
- Possible projects for grants. Trails on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area?
- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District (www.mcsd.org/) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, is one of four Morris County towns that assumes the responsibility for soil and erosion management instead of leaving it to the county.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Public meetings were held in June. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- August 2014. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning variances needed for steep slopes on a property on Sunset Drive. Memo to Planning Board concerning development on steep slopes on a property on Mountain Avenue. Letter of thanks to Chatham Disposal Company for pickup of trash from a workday on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area on July 8.
- June 2014. Memo to NJDEP concerning wetlands permits for a property on Loantaka Lane South.
- April 2014. Memo to NJDEP concerning application for an LOI on Ferndale Road. Memo to Planning Board suggesting a conservation easement be obtained on steep slopes on a subdivision on Longview Road.
- March 2014. Memo to Planning Board urging adoption of Natural Resources Inventory as a section of the Conservation Element of the Master Plan.
- January 2014. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning violation of conservation easement on steep slopes on a property on Susan Drive, memo to NJDEP urging an applicant for subdivision on Shunpike Road to obtain an LOI.

EVENTS

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURNED at 9:40 p.m.

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