

Chatham Township Environmental Commission  
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600  
Minutes of the Tuesday, November 12, 2019

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:18 pm on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Dan Miller, Christina Mott, Jessica Romeo and Dot Stillinger. Absent: Township Committee Liaison Tracy Ness, Amy Mason, Matt Palmer and Don Travisano. Also attending, Thomas Marion from Chatham High School and Asher Robson from Chatham Middle School. Both are acting as ambassadors between the schools and the township.

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](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 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.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM 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 October 1, 2019 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Jessica Romeo 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:20-7:30) Maureen Kelly, Green Team Chair, Jessica Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair - 2018 BRONZE CERTIFICATION.

Reviewed multiple actions for 2021 recertification. Explained the requirements and procedures to the student ambassadors and spoke about sharing tasks to achieve points, ex: anti-idling, water conservation. Maureen Kelly will be attending the Sustainable conference at the NJLM.

NORTH NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE Jessica Romeo, Municipal Alliance Subcommittee - Plastic bag ban ordinance adopted on Oct. 10. Congratulations to Jessica and all who supported her. Other surrounding towns are in the process of adopting: Summit, Millburn, New Providence, Berkeley Heights and more. Discussed options for circulating/distributing or giving away reusable bags, especially to senior citizens.

NEW JERSEY'S CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM Amy Mason, Energy Subcommittee - Continue to monitor progress toward an energy aggregation partnership. Amy, Township Adm. and Township Committeewomen Ness met and had a positive meeting with Good Energy. Plans to continue for an ordinance adoption and possibly add other towns for a better buying power. Dan Miller added that this does not address and is not made cost effective for larger residential property lots or privately owned larger lots. This would be an incentive not to sell their land and have less development. Possibly discuss this with power company. Perhaps Rolling Knolls could be a partial solar farm.

REPORT ON PLASTICS PANEL AT ANJEC ANNUAL EVENT OCT. 4 Jessica Romeo – 30+ people attended. Spoke about the North Jersey Sustainable Municipal Alliance joining together to achieve a ban on plastic bags ordinance within many towns and working together to achieve this accomplishment.

PLAN FOR CTEC WORK DAY IN APRIL – Saturday, April 18, 2020. Planning commenced. • Contact potential volunteers • Task list • possibly achieve SJ points. Maybe high school environmental club will assist.

KIRBY MEADOW AND RELATED PARCELS Dan Miller - Trail needs work. - Plan for maintenance of meadow, who's responsible and is it being done. - Parcels on either side of the Post Office are owned by Morris County. Maintenance is needed. Some maintenance has taken place. Discussed areas in need of cleanup and whereas for safety reasons, volunteers cannot cleanup county roadside areas. This is a requirement by County road crews. Dan will speak with Township Adm. to request county maintenance. Dan Miller and Dot Stillinger will walk this property.

PLANNING - CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF A FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR CTEC - Prioritize programs to implement, timelines.

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.**

- Rezoning for affordable housing planned for the lot on Southern Blvd next to the Chatham Club across from the Chatham Hill apartments (Block 128 lot 9, Fairmount Common LLC). Ordinance will be introduced this Thurs. Nov. 14.

#### REPORTS

Pesticide Reduction Subcommittee – Cara Feeser – Organic playing fields has been accomplished, moving forward to organic pesticides in 2020.

#### NOTES AND ANY OTHER DISCUSSION

•Southern Blvd, School is collecting clean used plastic bags in an effort to win a school bench. Trash bins are located at the school.

- Pilgrim oil pipeline

- In September 2019 the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit agreed with arguments made by the New Jersey attorney general that a private company (PennEast) lacked legal authority to seize or condemn state lands in federal court under the 11th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Under the legal doctrine of sovereign immunity, a state cannot be sued by a private company without its consent. Tom Gilbert, campaign director for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, said the ruling makes clear that PennEast seriously overstepped the law in trying to condemn state-owned lands, many preserved in partnership with counties, towns and private land trusts. The PennEast pipeline is a controversial 120-mile project to bring natural gas from Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale into New Jersey and metropolitan markets.

- 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> to see if the Pilgrim Pipeline goes near your house. The web site was 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.

- 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. 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.

#### 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 9:15

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary

