

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

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:25 pm on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Jessica Romeo and Dot Stillinger. Absent: Frank Esposito, Christina Mott, Matt Palmer, Don Travisano and Township Committee Liaison Karen Swartz.

Also in attendance, township resident Chris Malinchak.

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. 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.

Maureen Kelly motioned to approve the October 2, 2018 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Jessica Romeo 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:35-7:45) Maureen Kelly, Green Team Chair, J. Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair - Received Bronze Certification approval. APPROVED FOR 200 POINTS AND BRONZE CERTIFICATION FOR 2018. CONGRATULATIONS! Municipal energy audit has been redone by S. Carroll, former chair of the Green Team. THE LONG AND ARDUOUS HOURS PAID OFF. THANKS, STEVE!

Look ahead to 2021 and possible Silver certification is 350 points, a revised list will be prepared to see what points can be achieved. Maureen Kelly stated that she would like to attend other towns green team meetings to see how they are run. Maplewood, NJ received approval for a car charging station, this is something that the Green Team is interested in achieving. The Green Team will also host a Freecycling event in the spring. – it's a "Garage Sale" Where Everything is Free!

Maureen Kelly motioned to approve the following meeting dates for CTEC and the Green Team 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, Tuesday August 6 (if needed), Tuesday September 10 (avoid Labor Day), Tuesday October 1, Tuesday November 12 (avoid election day), Tuesday December 3, Tuesday January 7, 2020.

No one attended the Environmental Commissioner Training on November 3.

SPRING TREE SEEDLING GIVE-A-WAY

Cara Feeser will lead the seedling give-a-way. This event will be the same as last year, which is seedlings will be provided by the New Jersey and the Arbor Day Foundation for residents through the New Jersey Tree Recovery Program. To be held on Saturday April 27, from 9-1.

SPRING EARTH DAY WORKDAY EVENT

Earth Day in 2019 is Monday April 22. Workday will be held Saturday April 7. CTEC decided to concentrate on Green Village Pond, to make the area more attractive for walking and pond watching. Area residents are invited to participate in improving the path and pond area. Details and task list to follow.

PILGRIM PIPELINE – Chair Dot Stillinger will reach out to liaison for an update.

Possibly plan an event, a "Walk the Line" walk along part of the proposed Pilgrim pipeline route, as the New Jersey Conservation Foundation is doing on the proposed PennEast pipeline route. From the Outdoor Ed Center to near Karlin Drive (about a mile) the right-of-way passes through Refuge land and there are important environmental features on both sides.

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>

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.**

Discussed the disturbance and dumping on 24A Long Hill Lane. Chris Malinchak noticed trespassers on this property dumping fill and cutting down trees. Mr. Malinchak was very bothered by this and wanted to share his concerns with CTEC.

- 446 Green Village Road, 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.

PENDING.

- 341 Green Village Road, 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. Approved by Board of Adjustment. **CLOSED**

REPORTS

- EC Facebook Page Workgroup - Head C. Feeser – status quo, people are engaging. Over 200 followers.
- Pesticide Reduction Workgroup – Head C. Feeser, recently walked the playing fields, turf is green and lush.
- Open Space Workgroup - Head C. Feeser attended last week's OS meeting. Discussed updating the Open Space Plan guideline. Cara was given the task of updating streams and river buffers.
- Communications Workgroup F. Esposito, Head
 - Review EC website for items to change or eliminate.
 - Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito.
- Recycling Workgroup F. Esposito, Head
 - Recycle Coach is an app other towns are using.
 - Report by J. Romeo on a presentation by GSWA on Oct. 24 about recycling. – MUA Contract ends 12/2019.
 - Ideas for community education.
- Invasive Species Workgroup M. Palmer, Head
 - Possibly plan an event or brochure to promote the removal of the highly invasive Japanese barberry, a host for ticks. Studies have found the larger the number of this plant in an area, the higher the incidence of Lyme disease-carrying ticks. J. Romeo felicitated a talk on ticks last spring.
 - 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 for 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.

NOTES AND ANY OTHER DISCUSSION

• Ideas for programs and events.

• 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 clear cutting 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.

MAIL RECEIVED

- LOI and General Permit application notices

- Newsletters

Monthly financial report

Minutes of recent meetings of the Long Hill Township and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions.

ADJOURN 9:07

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary

