

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday November 14, 2017

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:28 pm on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Frank Esposito, Jessica Romeo and Dot Stillinger. Absent: Steve Carroll, Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Peter Gallagher, Matt Palmer, and Don Travisano.

Also attending the meeting was township residents Amara Higgins, Bob Higgins, Julie Diplas, Kate Murphy – Chatham Borough Environmental Commission Chair and Theresa and Charles Magistro, residents of New Providence.

Due to a lack of quorum, no formal action was taken at this meeting.

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.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:29-7:43) – Due to Chair S. Carroll, absent, Dot Stillinger chaired the meeting. Jessica Romeo discussed the Climate Focus Subcommittee, stating the start of organizing goals and committee members has commenced and are planning for a meeting. A list of possible tasks has been initiated. First event is to corroborate with Chatham Borough for a residential energy audit. Location, date and agenda, to follow, possibly the library or the twp meeting room. Also spoke of reinstating the library events.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM DATES FOR 2018

Suggest Tuesday February 6, Tuesday March 6, Tuesday April 3, Tuesday May 1, **Tuesday June 5**, 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 (avoid New Year's weekend).

PILGRIM PIPELINE

- Excellent pipeline regulation ordinance titled "Watershed Protection" had a first reading by the Township Committee on Thursday, November 9. Adoption is scheduled for Thursday December 14. Prohibits hazardous substance pipelines in the Great Swamp watershed.

- 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.

BEARS AND FOXES

Discuss new proposed ordinance to allow bear hunting in the Township. The proposed ordinance is for the use of firearms for deer and bear hunting, Township Committee adoption is set for December 14 meeting. Resident Bob Higgins stated that residents need to be educated on bears and foxes behavior. Leaving bird seed or garbage cans outside can lead to bears, but also foxes, coyotes, possums, raccoons, mice. Also stated the firearm bear hunt season starts Dec 4. The Great Swamp has a course on bears and foxes. This is something that the borough and twp can provide a joint educational program on.

PLASTIC BAG REPLACEMENT PROJECT

- Replace plastic grocery shopping bags with reusable totes is becoming a necessity. Jessica would like work with Lafayette School Environmental club to propose discourage or ban use of plastic bags.

LEAF BLOWERS. Resident Julie Diplas spoke to CTEC about leaf blowers. Julie stated that she is a volunteer for Quiet Communities and has researched the dangers of gas and noise from leaf blowers which effects the environment, people, birds and animals. She also handed out information regarding the same. This dialog will continue by email.

WORKDAY 2018

- Possible projects: trail improvement at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area, Passaic River.

DISCUSSION - Theresa and Charles Magistro, residents of New Providence spoke regarding the proposed T-Mobile application on River Road. They do not support the increase in equipment. They expressed their views on the harmfulness to people, birds and the environment, including the increase in radiation and noise which effects birds. They feel like the US is far behind other countries regarding electronic communications equipment and it diminishes property value.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- T-Mobile Northeast, LLC, Block 63, Lot 21.01, River Road, 10-5-17. LOI application to NJDEP for an Individual Transition Area Waiver (authorizes regulated activities, such as construction or development, in areas adjacent to wetlands). Application has been received by the NJDEP but no action has been taken yet. The applicant is proposing to install a new equipment platform, equipment cabinet and antennas on the existing utility tower (JCP&L) within the site. The area is very wet and adjoins the Passaic River.

- PSE&G, Right-of-way in Chatham Township, 6-6-17. Wetlands permit application to NJDEP for General Permit #1: the proposed activities are for the installation of new natural gas distribution mains in public Right-of-Way (ROW) within PSE&G's Natural Gas Service Area. CTEC sent a letter to the NJDEP after PSE&G applied for the same thing in 2016. PSE&G tends to be a lot more sensitive to the environment when doing maintenance than JCP&L.

- 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 WEBSITE

WWW.FACEBOOK.COMChathamBoroughEnvironmentalCommission C. Feeser, EC Facebook admin.

• OPEN SPACE - Rezoning Dixiedale; CTEC discussed the endangered species that could be existing there as owls, wood turtles, spotted salamanders. CTEC did send a letter to DEP two years ago with their concerns. As this is private property, the commission is not allowed to walk it. The rezoning ordinance is up for adoption on December 14 meeting.

• Recycling Committee - F. Esposito, Chair

MUA provided a trash compactor at Tanglewood. Resident Julie Diplas expressed that she takes her recycling there in-between pickups. Residents are still interested in establishing a weekly recycling collection. MUA will hold a hazardous material recycling in 2018.

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 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.
- Possible projects for grants. Trails on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area and former Kirby tract? Nash Field to Green Village Road?

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

- Rock Salt Alternatives Presentation with Great Swamp Watershed Association: Got Salt? More than One Way to Break the Ice, Tuesday, December 12, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m., GSWA Headquarters - 568 Tempe Wick Road, Morristown. Free.

- View the award-winning documentary, "Saving The Great Swamp: Battle to Defeat the Jetport" during its prime-time television premiere:

NJTV: Wednesday, November 15 at 8:00 pm

WHYY: Wednesday, November 15 at 10:00 pm

WLIW: Sunday, November 19 at 12:30 pm

MAIL RECEIVED

- Letter dated Sept. 21, 2017 from LSRP (Licensed Site Remediation Professional) Atlantic Environmental Solutions, Inc. to NJDEP certifying that two 275 gallon aboveground kerosene storage tanks were removed and the area was remediated. The RAO (Response Action Outcome) did not address building interiors. It was recommended that a complete building interior evaluation should be completed before any change in use or re-occupancy is considered.

- Certification by the Morris County Soil Conservation District of the soil erosion and sediment control plan for soil disturbance for the Chatham high school addition, August 23, 2017.

- Letters from ANJEC thanking CTEC for joining in 2017

- Monthly financial report

- Minutes of June 14, 2017 meeting of the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission

- Minutes of recent meetings of the Long Hill Township Environmental Commission

ADJOURN 9:10

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary