

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:24 pm on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, Mike Kelly, Marilyn Murray, Matt Palmer, Dot Stillinger & Don Travisano. Also in attendance: Evelyn Meisenbacher (Watershed Ambassador). Absent: George Crimmins, Frank Esposito, Curt Ritter (Township Committee liaison.)

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](http://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 (cancelled), September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2, 2014 and January 13 in 2015.

#### Roll Call

Mike Kelly motioned to approve the November 4, 2014 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Marilyn Murray 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

#### GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:29-7:49)

- Work ahead on Sustainable Jersey points for 2015. Submit resolution to Township Committee to endorse and adopt towards SJ points.

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

#### GIRALDA PURCHASE

- Freeholders approved spending \$10M for the purchase of the Giralda tract(s) on Woodland Rd. Township will own the property. Morris County Park Commission will maintain it. Matt Palmer walked the property. He concluded that it is a mixed use property, there is trail around the pond, some wetlands, and property is fenced in.

#### PILGRIM PIPELINE

- Chatham gets water from NJ American which draws from the Passaic River. If the pipeline spills in Chatham Borough, which jointly with Madison gets its water from wells, the aquifer may become hopeless contaminated and they may end up having to go with NJ American also. A number of years ago Madison had to spend millions to clean up wells from spills at a dry cleaners near Staples. Spills in Chatham Township will leak onto backyards and drain into the Great Swamp. PSE&G will not let Pilgrim use their right of way.

The Township Committee approved a resolution opposing the pipeline project. CTEC concurred with the Township's position. Additionally, some CTEC members are in support of passing an Environmental Commission Resolution opposing pipeline, and some members felt it is redundant. With that said, Don Travisano motioned to approve a CTEC resolution opposing the Pilgrim Pipeline project, and Dot Stillinger 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and Marilyn Murray, Mike Kelly, Don Travisano and Dot Stillinger voted yes, Matt Palmer and Steve Carroll voted no. Steve stated that the Township Committee had already passed a resolution and there is no need to duplicate, others felt that with a passing of the Environmental Commission's resolution, they were backing up the Township Committee.

- Pipeline page on Chatham Township website at <http://www.chathamtownship-nj.gov/pipeline/index.html>.

- Landowner Rights Workshop – 12/8/14 at 6:30 PM - Library of the Chatham's.

#### TREE PROJECT

- Planted 2 trees at SBS recently, both red maples. Waiting on tree inventory and size from Joe Dunn. Identify groups/sites for tree planting in the spring.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

George Crimmins and Dot Stillinger with assistance from ANJEC will collaborate to amend/revise the current Chatham Township ordinance for Environment Commission to conform to current State law. The draft will be emailed to commission members for comments.

## 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 was approved by CTEC. Application was continued before the Board of Adjustment

## REPORTS

- Planning Board Complete Street and Safe Routes to Schools drafts have not been accepted by the Planning Board. No December meeting, no new applications.

Planning Board has sent letter to Township Committee recommending inclusion of the Green Checklist in the application checklist. (Dot will check approval status with TC.) A professional will compile all the parts of the Circulation Element into a single document. D. Travisano.

- Township Committee

No report.

C. Ritter, Township Committee liaison.

- Open Space Committee

Giralda purchase. Averett walk at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, December 6. Park at Little Red Schoolhouse. Explore for public use. M. Kelly, Open Space Committee liaison.

- Communications Committee

- 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

- Seems that establishing a survey would be a waste of time. Reviewing current recycling behaviors with costs options would be the best resource.

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

- 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.

Conservation Easement Subcommittee – CTEC suggests to create a conservation easement monitoring and recording plan for the town to have. Possibly have the construction official or zoning official inspect. Currently, the Township Engineer inspects by default, at which point enforcement is considered. The township owns 45 + easements. Subcommittee of Dot, Steve and Marilyn was appointed.

Steve Carroll motioned to present a list of conservation easements to the Township Committee for review and Don Travisano 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

## 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 water bodies 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](http://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? Trails on the Giralda property?
- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District ([www.mcsd.org/](http://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 assume the responsibility for soil and erosion management instead of leaving it to the county.
- Note final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Option B was chosen. Hunting, including for turkeys, will be allowed, but no horses. Management areas will be consolidated into larger but fewer parcels. Public meetings were held in June. Read the Plan at [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great\\_Swamp/what\\_we\\_do/conservation.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Swamp/what_we_do/conservation.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

- Thursday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. EcoFilm - Gasland, Part 2, Library of the Chathams. The film takes a broader look at the dangers of fracking, the controversial method of extracting natural gas and oil. Free.
- Saturday, Dec. 6, 9:30 a.m. Joint walk with Open Space Committee on the Averett property to locate possible walking trails and to clip invasive. Park at the Little Red Schoolhouse.
- Monday, Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m., Library of the Chathams. Pipeline Landowner Rights Workshop.
- Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 7:00 PM, Watchung Boro municipal building, 15 Mountain Blvd., Watchung. DOT presentation on pipeline safety. RSVP to [Sparikh@Watchungnj.gov](mailto:Sparikh@Watchungnj.gov).

#### MAIL RECEIVED

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

ADJOURN 9:21

Carolyn Scannelli