

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday December 5, 2017

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:26 pm on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members, Steve Carroll, Cara Feeser, Jessica Romeo, Dot Stillinger and Township Committee Liaison Karen Swartz. Absent: Frank Esposito, Maureen Kelly, Peter Gallagher, Matt Palmer, and Don Travisano.

Also attending the meeting were township residents Steve Clymer and Susan Zwick; regarding Passaic River clean-up.

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.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM DATES FOR 2018

Suggest Tuesday February 6, Tuesday March 6, Tuesday April 3, Tuesday May 1, Tuesday June 12, 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 (avoid New Year's weekend).

Steve Carroll motioned to approve the October 3, 2017 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Cara Feeser 2nd with all in favor. Steve Carroll motioned to approve the Green Team and CTEC minutes (no quorum) from November 14, 2017 and Cara Feeser 2nd with all in favor.

DISCUSSION – PASSAIC RIVER CLEAN-UP – Workday 2018

Residents Steve Clymer and Susan Zwick spoke regarding the use of kayaks and canoes as part of the Passaic River clean-up. Steve spoke about using kayaks, as he is more familiar with that. He also stated that his property could possibly be a launch area, along with a few other sights in that neighborhood. Steve also presented a slide show of the river and wildlife. Susan spoke of using canoes; her opinion was that using canoes is a safer way to negotiate the trash clean up. Everyone is enthusiastic about the clean-up and have many ideas. More planning, details and safety concerns to be addressed. Date to be determined.

Many others have expressed interest.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (8:30-8:56) S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair, J. Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair

Reviewed list and discussed potential actions for June 2018 recertification; recertify a resolution that the Township Committee supports the Environmental Commission/Green team regarding Sustainable Jersey participation. Karen Swartz will speak to the TC about adopting a current resolution. Steve advised members to read fine lines when looking for potential action points. Steve stated that he will not rejoin EC. Although, he will continue to complete recertification for 2018.

PILGRIM PIPELINE

- Excellent pipeline regulation ordinance titled "Watershed Protection" had a first reading Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017. 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.

- Note recent XL pipeline spill in South Dakota of over 200,000 gallons.

BEARS AND FOXES – WILD Neighbors presentation, Wed. Jan. 24, 7 PM at The Library of the Chatham's. Have you seen a fox in your neighborhood? A deer in your yard? Or a bear running into the woods? Please join the Chatham Township and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions for a talk with the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center on WILD animals, co-existing with our wild neighbors and friends. Stephanie Singer from the Outdoor Education Center will delve in to who our animal neighbors are, what behaviors we can expect from them, and how we can be good, responsible neighbors and co-exist peacefully with our WILD friends. The talk is geared towards adults, but residents of all ages are welcome.

GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

- Boy Scout Troop 8, including 6 adults and 8 scouts, spent several hours on Sunday, Nov. 19, improving the Green Village Pond trail by spreading woodchips, clipping brambles and picking up trash. See the press release and photo on the CTEC website. Note that the GVP trail gives easy access to the Kirby Meadow, an ideal spot for birdwatching.
- An Eagle Scout candidate, Ethan Atkins, plans to build a bench and kiosk at the trailhead on Green Village Road.
- The Park Commission will work on trails in the Oak Knoll region after it acquires final title to the Platt property. A gravel parking area is planned for the Platt property next to the post office.
- Volunteers continue to work on trail improvement and cleanup of dump material along the footpath. Projects are available for Scouts and other service groups. The CTEC goal is to extend the trail, possibly marking features for a nature walk, from Green Village Road to the Kirby meadow, and finally to create a loop trail around the meadow.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- T-Mobile Northeast, LLC, Block 95, Lot 18.01, 300 Shunpike Rd, 11-13-17. LOI application to NJDEP for an Individual Transition Area Waiver (authorizes regulated activities, such as construction or development, in areas adjacent to wetlands). The applicant is proposing to remove the existing temporary telecommunications tower facility and install a permanent facility consisting of nine new antennas mounted to a new 140 ft. monopole, new equipment cabinets and electric equipment within a 50'x50' fenced, gravel covered compound. The area is behind the Gloria Dei church and is adjacent to Cougar Field. Area has been disturbed and the new construction will not have any further impact on the wetlands. No CTEC comment needed. **CLOSED.**

- 446 Green Village Road, Block 144, Lot 50, April 1, 2016, 10-28-17, 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, resubmitted on 10-28-17. 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.**

Golden River Homes LLC, 11 Sunset Drive, Block 61, Lot 16. 10-16-17. Application to Board of Adjustment, requesting variances for construction of a single family home. Steep slopes, drains to Great Swamp, previous application to BOA was denied. CTEC will follow this application. **PENDING. CTEC needs to review plans.**

- Aleksandra Bury, 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. CTEC will follow this application. **PENDING.**

- 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). The area is very wet and adjoins the Passaic River. The Board of Adjustment approved the application on Thursday, Nov. 16. **CLOSED.**

- 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. No comment by CTEC required. **CLOSED.**

REPORTS

- Climate Focus Subcommittee J. Romeo, Chair.

Discussed subcommittee meeting held on Tues. Nov. 28, discuss draft presentation, spoke regarding possible reaffirm mayors resolution from 2006, community involvement and educating the public on energy auditing.

- Facebook

C. Feeser, EC Facebook admin.

Cara stated that the Fb page is extremely manageable.

- Pesticide Reduction Subcommittee. C. Feeser, Chair

Cara is interested in meeting with the local legislatures regarding the status of the "Safe Playing Fields Act" (S541) which has been introduced.

- Planning Board - D. Travisano, Planning Board liaison. The Planning Board declared the proposed rezoning of the Dixiedale tract as nominally inconsistent with the Land Use Element of the Master Plan. However it recommended that the Township Committee approve the rezoning since it furthers several other parts of the Master Plan including parts of the Conservation Element. The TC will have to approve the rezoning ordinance by a supermajority (4 of 5 members instead of 3 of 5) since the ordinance is inconsistent with the Master Plan. The PB declared the proposed zoning overlay districts, the Passaic River watershed overlay district and the Great Swamp watershed overlay district, to be consistent with the Master Plan. Pipelines carrying hazardous material will be prohibited in the Great Swamp watershed overlay district and approved only with extremely stringent safety conditions in the Passaic River watershed overlay district.

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 arials 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 Meadow, 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.
- Wild Neighbors presentation, Wed. Jan. 24, 7 PM, at The Library of the Chathams. Free.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Monthly financial report
- Minutes of recent meetings of the Long Hill Township and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions

ADJOURN 9:55

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary