

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday, December 10, 2019

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:27 pm on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser (by phone), Maureen Kelly, Amy Mason, Christina Mott, Jessica Romeo, Dot Stillinger and Township Committee Liaison Tracy Ness, Absent: Dan Miller, 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 and resident/BOA member Lisa McHugh.

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. 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 10 (avoid election day), December 1 and January 12, 2021.

Jessica Romeo motioned to approve the November 12, 2019 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Maureen Kelly 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:28-7:47) Maureen Kelly, Green Team Chair, Jessica Romeo, Green Team Vice Chair - 2018 BRONZE CERTIFICATION.

Maureen attended the NJ Sustainability Summit at the NJ League of Municipalities Conference. Summit NJ was recognized for attaining over 600 points. Maureen will contact Summit for recertification ideas.

Maureen and Chief Miller spoke regarding "anti-idling" signs, there are signs available to be placed and will reinforce this policy. Also, Thomas Marion (HS Green Team ambassador) will address this with the high school Green team and teacher advisor.

An ordinance to make Green Team more inclusive needs to be adopted.

Discussed exploring opportunities to search and apply for municipal grants. Asked members to search and share ideas at January meeting.

REUSEABLE BAGS FROM T-SHIRTS Christina Mott, Recycling Subcommittee - Turn T-shirts into reuseable bags. Discuss this as a possible project to host in Chatham to support repurposing and reusable bag initiative. After discussion, CTEC decided this might not be worthwhile. As a serger and other sewing equipment needed for this project is costly.

NORTH NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE Jessica Romeo, Municipal Alliance Subcommittee - Update. Jessica testified in Trenton at public meeting of the Senate Budget and Appropriations on Thursday Dec. 5. on Bill S2776 (single-use paper carryout bags, polystyrene foam food service products, and limit the provision of single-use plastic straws). This bill is up for vote by the Senate - Plastic bag ban ordinance in Chatham Township adopted on Oct. 10. Congratulations to Jessica and all who supported her.

NEW JERSEY'S CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM Amy Mason, Energy Subcommittee - Continue to monitor progress toward an energy aggregation partnership. - Tracy and Amy met with Bob Hoffman and representatives from Good Energy, the aggregator, in November. Bob would like us to introduce the first ordinance, which allows Chatham Township to pursue this program, at the first working meeting in January, with a tentative schedule of introducing the 2nd ordinance in February, with adopting it in March. This would allow for a fall start to the program if all goes well. Tracy

agreed to bring the program up in an upcoming CT meeting.

- Bob Hoffman suggested that we move forward on our own, while keeping other local communities in contact in case we could join forces and create a regional alliance for more buying power. Suggested towns include Chatham Borough, New Providence, Summit, Millburn and Long Hill Township. Amy is in touch with the borough, Millburn and Summit currently.

PLAN FOR CTEC WORK DAY IN APRIL – Date - Sat. April 18, 9-noon. • Contact potential volunteers • Start planning task list.

TREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY – APRIL 25. CTEC will receive up to 1000 trees at no cost. Application to participate due in January. High School Green team will assist.

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

Projects for 2020 – anti-Idling, energy aggregation program, tree seedling giveaway and exploring grant opportunities/funding.

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). Most of the parcel is in a wetland transition area. **PENDING.**

REPORTS

Township Committee - Tracy Ness, Township Committee Liaison

Main topic is affordable housing – TC will ask judge for a 6 month extension on Affordable Housing Compliance Hearing Date.

Also, maintenance and evaluation of municipal and police buildings. Buildings are in need of repair and updating.

NOTES AND ANY OTHER DISCUSSION

• 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 9:05

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary

