

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday, June 30, 2020
Special Meeting to discuss Block 62 Lots 70 & 71 Planning Board recommendation letter and other business.

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission Special Meeting convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, by Zoom video conference due to COVID-19. In attendance were CTEC members Cara Feeser, Maureen Kelly, Jessica Romeo, Dot Stillinger and Township Committee Liaison Celeste Fondaco. Absent: Amy Mason, Dan Miller, Matt Palmer, Doris Rhee and Don Trivisano.

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 2020 January 2021 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.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS 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, June 30, July NO MEETING, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 10 (avoid election day), December 1 and January 12, 2021.

Maureen Kelly motioned to approve the June 2, 2020 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Cara Feeser 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:16-7:30) Maureen Kelly, Green Team Chair, Jessica Romeo, Vice Chair.
- 2018 BRONZE CERTIFICATION. Recertification for 2021. Green Team has a new member resident Carol Wipf.
- Due to COVID-19, the Green Team is considering meeting apart from the CTEC meeting. Future Sustainable Jersey considerations - pest reduction, electric vehicle charging stations, clean energy

SPECIAL MEETING TO APPROVE MEMO TO PLANNING BOARD CONCERNING LOTS ON RIVER ROAD - Suggest that there is an opportunity now to establish a conservation zone along the slopes on River Road. - Frank Banisch, Township Planner, endorses the idea of a preserved Greenway along the slopes. Maureen Kelly commented, right of line down the street with easement 25' on each lot 70 and 71, to make easement centered to property lines. Members present at meeting thought the letter was well written. Maureen Kelly motioned to approve letter to the Planning Board, Cara Fesser 2nd with all in favor.

NORTH NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE Jessica Romeo, Municipal Alliance Subcommittee – No complaints regarding shopping during COVID-19 while adhering to “plastic bag ban” ordinance.

TREE SEEDLING GIVE-A-WAY UPDATE

Maureen and Celeste both stated that their Rosebud seedlings are doing well.

ROLLING KNOLLS

- The portion of the Superfund site owned by the Miele Trust now has a conservation easement (attached) to the EPA requiring that it "shall be preserved as open space. There shall be no development of the Subject Property for any purposes, including, without limitation, for residential, commercial, or industrial use."
- The PRPs (Principal Responsible Parties, that is, Chevron, Novatis and Nokia) issued a document (attached) rebutting the need for the comprehensive cleanup proposed by the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (attached). Several of the statements in the rebuttal need verification, in particular regarding disturbance of habitat. The habitat proposed for disturbance in the Refuge document is sub-par and needs restoration in any

event.

- The remedy currently proposed by the EPA will leave almost 140 acres in Chatham Township surrounded by a fence carrying "No Trespassing" signs, limiting the ability of the Township to use the property for trails or to improve habitat. A clause in the agreement states, "b. There will be no use of the Subject Property that is inconsistent with the remedy selected by EPA for the Site."
- The property adjoins the Refuge.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- Ongoing. Many of the plans submitted to the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment will be made available to the public online in digital format.
- Discussion. The role of the EC. The NJDEP and the Township Engineer have assumed many of the environmental oversight activities that used to be mainly the responsibility of the EC and non-profit environmental groups.

REPORTS

- Pesticide reduction Subcommittee Cara Feeser.
 - Lincoln Landscaping contracted to maintain playing field and colony pool using mostly organic methods with few chemicals.
 - Save bees by reducing the use of neonicotinoids
- 'QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR NURSERY BEFORE BUYING PLANTS' - Neonicotinoids are insecticides applied to nursery plants to keep them looking 'ideal' for sale. They may also persist in plants treated with them for years, and can continue to harm pollinator populations for a long time. Here are some questions to ask your plant nursery before purchasing plants for your gardens. #pollinatorweek 1. Are these plants or seeds treated with neonicotinoids ! or systemic insecticides? 2. Do you know if your ! plant suppliers use them? 3. Please consider removing neonic products and treated plants from your shelves. "
- Community education and Outreach Subcommittee Jessica Romeo
- MILKWEED PLANT GIVE-A-WAY Jessica Romeo
- July 11 – Farmers Market 8 am-1 pm, free giveaway of milkweed Butterfly flower "Hello Yellow" plants in organic pots, pollinator-friendly, attracts bees, Monarch butterflies, and hummingbirds. Also, educational handouts available. This flower is a butterfly magnet and deer resistant. Will advertise. Setting up for social distancing.
 - EC FACEBOOK Cara Feeser - Updates
- QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR NURSERY BEFORE BUYING PLANTS
- Raptor Trust – Song bird poisoning from lawn toxins.
- Native Ground coverings.

NOTES AND RESOURCES

- **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.
- **Online resources**
 - 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.
 - View open space and Green Acres properties at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/ga50/docs/rosi.lite.pdf> and <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/openspace.html>.

EVENTS

- Planning Board meeting Monday July 6 at 7:30 p.m. by Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81229554136>) A public hearing to determine whether all or a portion of the properties identified as Block 62, Lots 70 and 71 on the tax map of the Township of Chatham, State of New Jersey and more commonly known as 490 River Road and 482 River Road (the "Study Area") meets the criteria for an area in need of redevelopment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5 and should be designated as such an area in need of redevelopment.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Notices of LOI and General Permit requests
- Newsletters - Monthly financial report

ADJOURN 8:15

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary