

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Mike Kelly, Frank Esposito, Marilyn Murray, Megan Schaaf Dot Stillinger and Township Committee Liaison Curt Ritter. Township resident George Crimmins (left 8:00). Absent. Steve Carroll , Matt Palmer 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 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. 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, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2 in 2014 and January 13 in 2015.

Roll Call

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the February 4, 2014 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Marilyn Murray 2nd, with all in favor.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

PENDING. Traver, 509 Shunpike Rd., Block 128, Lot 14, near Long Hill Chapel. 12-18-13. Application to NJDEP for an LOI. Owner proposes to subdivide the one-acre lot and construct a new house. Property is 1.4 acres in R-3 (1/2 acre) zone. Rear property line lies in wetlands which drain to the Great Swamp so should be classified as exceptional resource and hence require a 150 foot transition area. The rear third of the property is in the transition area. A wetlands Transition Area Waiver will be necessary. Letter has been sent to the NJDEP. Applicant is applying for an LOI.

PENDING. Warren, 23 Susan Drive, Block 20 Lot 20. 12-2-13. Application to Board of Adjustment for Minimum front yard, Structural Retaining Wall, Disturbance of steep slopes, change in grade, height and structural retaining walls, variances to construct a new single family dwelling. A stop work order was issued because of violations of the steep slope ordinance and disturbances in the conservation easement. CTEC memo was sent to Board of Adjustment with copies to Planning Board, Township Committee. Board of Adjustment approved application, Township Committee approved restoring the conservation easement.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance. The Refuge under no circumstances would consider acquiring it until the cleanup has been completed and all liability has been extinguished. It has been declared "an area in need of redevelopment" by the Township Committee. What does that mean for conservation purposes?

REPORTS

Planning Board report. Planning Board has sent letter to Township Committee recommending inclusion of the Green Checklist in the application checklist. Complete Streets is being incorporated into the Circulation Element of the Master Plan. A professional will compile all the parts of the Circulation Element into a single document. D. Trivisano.

Township Committee report. Approved introduction of 2014 Township Budget. An alert message system has been launched "Alert Chatham Township". Visit Chatham Township website to join. Inquiring about joining SurveyMonkey for a yearly membership which would allow all departments to use this survey without additional costs. Updating website to include hyperlinks to the agenda, resolutions and ordinances. Possible ordinance or resolution regarding Steep Slope Disturbance in a Conservation Easement at 23 Susan Drive. C. Ritter, Township Committee liaison.

Open Space Committee report. February meeting cancelled. M. Schaaf, M. Kelly, Open Space Committee liaisons.

Communications Committee report. Updating website to include new roster. Adding link to connect to Sustainable Jersey site. F. Esposito

Recycling Committee report. Progress has been made in creating a survey using free version of Survey Monkey to gauge public interest in weekly recycles pickup. M. Schaaf, M. Palmer.
Progress in getting quote from MUA for weekly pickup of recyclables. 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, will attend MUA meeting next week. Frank is going to check with someone at the high school to see how the Rocket Composter is doing. Anyone interested in an MUA fieldtrip? M. Schaaf, F. Esposito, Chair.
Megan and Marilyn will work on collecting data regarding Tanglewood recycling center to incorporate with the weekly pickup proposal.

Community Education and Outreach Committee. M. Kelly, M. Schaaf, and F. Esposito, Chair.

Conservation Easement Subcommittee
Subcommittee met on Wednesday, Feb. 19 to discuss modifying the Old Bridge conservation easement notification ordinance for Chatham Township. D. Stillinger, M. Murray.

- Old Bridge conservation easement tracking. Old Bridge ordinance requires property purchasers to be notified by the seller in writing of any conservation easement. Can Chatham Township pass a similar ordinance? CTEC can prepare a draft ordinance based on the one from Old Bridge.
- Conservation easements on 4 properties on River Road, including the one on the Greeve property, need to be recorded and accepted. Planning Board final subdivision approval was granted 3-21-96 conditioned that a conservation easement on all four new parcels had to be granted to the Township. Developer was Nick Parisi.
- CTEC should pursue a mechanism for conservation easement monitoring and recording.

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- Report on ANJEC workshop for new EC members held on March 1. (Mike Kelly & Marilyn Murray attended)
- Approved memo to Planning Board requesting that the recently updated Natural Resources Inventory be adopted as part of the Conservation Element of the Master Plan. Mendham Township is among several communities doing this. Frank Esposito motioned to approve memo and Megan Schaaf 2nd with all in favor.
- Approved the CTEC Annual Report. Mike Kelly motioned to approved and Frank Esposito 2nd with all in favor.
- Approve budget

CTEC MINUTES	1500
ANJEC DUES	400
BUSINESS SUPPLIES	150
GREEN FAIR	600
OPEN SPACE WORKDAY	200
EQUIPMENT	200
PRINTING	150
MISC. EVENTS	300
TOTAL	3500

Megan Schaaf volunteered to compose a CTEC mailing to be added to the July tax bills. The informational mailing will inform residents of the purpose and duties of the Environmental Commission .

- Tasks for Open Space Workday on April 19. Task list will be circulated if anyone wants to volunteer.
- Use \$900 of CTEC funds to send two teachers to a Rocket Composter workshop? Commission declined.
- Bears have been sighted on Huron Drive. Bear workshop was held in November. EC bear education project?
- 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.
- 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.
- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District (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 assumes the responsibility for soil and erosion management instead of leaving it to the county.

- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- January 2014. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning violation of conservation easement on steep slopes on a property on Susan Drive.
- November 2013. Letter to NJDEP concerning Gunn application for wetlands permits on property on Green Village Road.
- October 2013. Report sent by e-mail to Sunset Lake Association about observations during CTEC property walk with questions and suggestions.

EVENTS

- NJ Conservation Foundation, 18th Annual NJ Land Conservation Rally, Saturday, March 22, 2014, Busch Campus Student Center, Rutgers University, Piscataway. 8 a.m-5 p.m. <http://njconservation.org/conservationrally.htm>. \$75.
- CTEC Twelfth Annual Open Space Workday, RAIN OR SHINE, on Saturday, April 19, 2014 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Everyone is invited to come at any time during the morning to help out at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area.
- Passaic River Symposium VI, Intersecting Priorities, Organized by the Passaic River Institute of Montclair State University, Thursday October 9, 2014, Friday October 10, 2014, Montclair State University Conference Center, 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, NJ. About \$60 if you identify yourself as an EC member. Note that any group can host a short workshop on their topic of interest. <http://www.montclair.edu/csam/passaic-river-institute/conferences-symposiums>.

MAIL RECEIVED

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

ADJOURN 8:40

Carolyn Scannelli