

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Maureen Kelly, Steve Carroll, Marilyn Murray, Dot Stillinger and Township Committee Liaison K. Swartz. Absent George Crimmins, Frank Esposito, Matt Palmer, and Don Travisano.

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 2015 and January 2016 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.

DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS IN 2015 AND JANUARY 2016

Every first or second Tuesday February through December 2015 and the second Tuesday in January 2016.

Dates are: February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 9, July NO MEETING, August 4, September 8, October 6, November 10, December 1 in 2015 and January 12, 2016.

Steve Carroll motioned to approve the January 13, 2015 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Maureen Kelly 2nd with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:29-7:46)

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

Review proposed and completed Sustainable Jersey Action towards Bronze recertification due June 2015.

Completed actions are;

Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan; Rain gardens; Open Space Plan; National Resources Inventory; Water Conservation Education Program; Municipal Carbon Footprint; Community Carbon Footprint.

PILGRIM PIPELINE

Water is received from NJ American which draws from the Passaic River. A spill where the pipeline crosses the river will drain towards the drinking water treatment plant in Little Falls and be costly to remove. If the pipeline spills in Chatham Borough, which jointly with Madison gets its water from wells, the aquifer may become hopelessly contaminated and they may end up having to go with NJ American also. Remember that 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. We might have to get out the detergent and wash turtles and ducks.

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

TREE PROJECT

- Trees at SBS.

- Joe Dunn is doing an inventory of the remaining Chatham Township trees over the winter so we can know how many trees we will have available in spring. Maybe plant one or two at the entrance to GVPCA. Maybe some at municipal building. Plan to line up sites over the winter so planting can start promptly in spring. Identify sites for street trees. Replace trees in strip between sidewalk and street where original trees have died. There are apparently many street trees that have died and need replacing. This may need to be a separate project.

UPDATED ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ENABLING ORDINANCE

Keep on agenda – once proposed ordinance has been approved by commission and Open Space Committee, EC will submit to Township Committee for final approval.

Review the draft of the proposed updated ordinance. The current Township environmental commission ordinance was adopted in 1968 immediately after the State of New Jersey first passed a law enabling environmental commissions. The State subsequently refined its statute. The proposed updated Chatham Township ordinance conforms to current State law, includes the ANJEC recommendation to remove the provision that ECs can acquire property, includes a couple of changes found in the ordinances of other towns, and changes language to be gender-neutral (“he” to “he or she”). However, Environmental Commission must keep an inventory of open space land. G. Crimmins.

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.
- CUSTOM BUILDERS, LLC- 35, ROSE TERRACE, BLOCK:93 LOT: 5. Minor Subdivision w/variances. Proposing to subdivide a half-acre lot into two quarter-acre lots in the R-3 (half-acre zone).
- The Farm at Green Village, 403 Green Village Rd., Block 48.18 Lots 140, 142, 143 and Block 144 Lot 48, 1-10-15. Application to Board of Adjustment to be considered as a Market Garden under the Market Garden ordinance and variances for keeping of farm animals in a Market Garden. Also requesting variances for building improvements. Site visit on Saturday Feb. 7 at 10:00 a.m. This is a public meeting so anyone can attend. Reviewed plan; possible wetlands. Some members of CTEC will be attending; comments to follow.
- 493 Green Village Rd., Block 48.21 Lot 172, 12-11-2014, application to NJDEP for a General Permit to replace a malfunctioning septic tank. Allowed under the DEP General Permit #25. CLOSED.
- 580 River Rd., Block 62 Lot 56, 11-24-2014, application to NJDEP for extension of LOI granted 12-16-2009. The property is on the uphill side of River Road and has no discernible wetlands. CLOSED.
- Rolling Knolls, 11-18-14, application to NJDEP for GP14 equivalency for B48 L189.02, B48.20 L184-189-189.01. For remedial investigation including installation of monitoring wells. CTEC will follow this. CLOSED.

REPORTS

- Planning Board

Working on simplifying the Circulation Element. Should be completed by summer. D. Travisano.

- Township Committee

R. Gallop was appointed as the Township's liaison for the Pilgrim Pipeline. Board of Health is reviewing a Green Village Rd septic tank (replacement) application. Septic tank might have been compromised when other work was being done on the property. K. Swartz, Township Committee and Board of Health liaison.

- Open Space Committee

Updated proposed CTEC ordinance will be shared with Open Space Committee to get their comments and edits. Marilyn Murray-Open Space 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 administrator Tom Salvas. F. Esposito, Chair.

- Recycling Committee – Condo developments are considering a weekly pickup because there is not sufficient space for recycling drop off. The additional two days would be picked up by a private hauler.

A definitive fee per household is necessary to proceed with trying to get a weekly recycling pickup into the Township budget. F. Esposito, Chair.

- Community Education and Outreach Committee.

- CTEC receives several e-mails every day. F. Esposito responds and archives the messages. F. Esposito, Chair.

- Conservation Easement Subcommittee

- CTEC should pursue a mechanism for conservation easement monitoring and recording.
- Lot grading plan is being revised to include more protection for conservation easements.

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 waterbodies in the county.

- Tomaro Honey located in Chatham, along with Chatham Township Beekeeping Club are local bee keepers. Committeewoman Karen Swartz will contact the Kiwanis Club to see if someone can speak to the environmental commission regarding bee keeping.

- 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) 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>, hit Advanced Data Search. 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/) 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 final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Option B was chosen. Hunting, including for turkeys, will be allowed, but no horses (riding, not hunting). 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.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- January, 2015. Letter to PSE&G urging denial of permission to use their ROW for the proposed Pilgrim pipeline.

EVENTS

- Thursday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. at Chatham Library. Eco-film: "Chasing Ice."
- Friday, March 6, 2015, all day. Wyndham Garden Hotel, 1 W. Lafayette St., Trenton, NJ. New Jersey Conservation Foundation annual rally. Info at www.njconservation.org/rally. Usually about \$80.
- March. ANJEC Environmental Commissioner Training. Saturday, March 28 - Roseland, 9:00am - 1:30pm, Essex County Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland. Also Saturday, March 7 - Haddon Twp., Saturday, March 21 - Pennington. Free for CTEC members.
- Saturday, April 18, 2015, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Thirteenth Annual Open Space Workday at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area. Fine for families. Old bottles and artifacts have been found in the trash piles.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill Environmental Commission.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN

9:05

Carolyn Scannelli