

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600
Minutes of the Tuesday, March 1, 2016

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:25 pm on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members, Frank Esposito, Maureen Kelly, Marilyn Murray, Dot Stillinger, and Township Liaison Karen Swartz. Also attending Township resident Peter Gallagher. 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 2016 and January 2017 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 2016 AND JANUARY 2017

Every first or second Tuesday February through December 2016 and the second Tuesday in January 2017.

Dates are: February 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 14, July NO MEETING, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6 in 2016 and January 10 in 2017.

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the February 2, 2016 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Maureen Kelly 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:26-7:33)

Dot spoke regarding a possible new chair for Green Team. Commission questioned the purpose of bronze status and achieving sustainable jersey points. Also, as to whether the township receives grants or incentives for certification. Much work needs to go into achieving points and the Commission does not have the manpower. Discussion will continue.

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

DRINKING WATER QUALITY IN CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

Township resident Peter Gallagher spoke to the Commission regarding an odor in his residential water. Mr. Gallagher is a customer of New Jersey American Water Co. As the Commission was not familiar with any township water issues, they suggested he have his water tested by a reputable water testing company and inquire as to what contaminants are being tested, and to check with his neighbors to see if they have a similar issue. Ms. Swartz stated that she is the liaison for utilities and at times it is difficult to communicate with NJAW. Mr. Gallagher did some research and has found that according to the EWG study in 2006 the pollutants in Chatham water are far above the national average (<http://www.ewg.org/tap-water/whatsinyourwater/NJ/NJ-American-Water-Company/0712001/>).

Mr. Gallagher will get back to CTEC with his findings. Additional discussion and research into the annual water quality reports and testing will continue.

GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

- Work Day will be Saturday, April 23. Suitable for Girl and Boy Scouts, youth groups, families, outdoor enthusiasts. Old bottles are frequently excavated on this old homestead. Attend during any part of 9:30am to 12:30pm. Flyer has been posted on CTEC website and will soon appear on the Township website.

- Area shows signs of being used.

- Any interest in having a short group walk? Possible brief early spring cleanup?
- Please review task list and pick a task.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- 35 Gates Ave., Block 115 Lot 12, 2-2-16. Application to NJDEP for wetlands General Permit #8 to disturb up to 850 sq. ft. of wetlands or transition areas for expansion/reconstruction of current house. Land Use Subcommittee reviewed application on March 1. **OPEN**
- 609 Fairmount Ave., Block 62.12 Lot 1. Application to Planning Board for subdivision of the acre lot. Steep slopes. R-3 (1/2 acre residential) zone. Land Use Subcommittee reviewed application on March 1, encouraged members to attend PB meeting 3/7/16. **PENDING**
- PSE&G, January 8, 2016. Application for General Permit #1 to NJDEP for routine vegetation maintenance in wetlands and transition areas. Marilyn Murray motioned to approve letter to NJDEP regarding caution in removing vegetation in sensitive areas and Maureen Kelly 2nd with all in favor. **PENDING**
- 2 Kincaid Lane, Block 62 Lot 88.01, 11-2-15. Application to Board of Adjustment for steep slope variances to construct a pool. Reviewed by Land Use Subcommittee. Approved on 2-18-16 with a conservation easement along an approximately 30 foot wide strip along the rear property line. **CLOSED**.

REPORTS

- Planning Board – meeting 3/7/16 609 Fairmount Ave application review.
D. Travisano, Planning Board liaison.
- Township Committee and Board of Health – Township Committee continue discussing Fair Share Housing.
K. Swartz, Township Committee and Board of Health liaison.
- Open Space Committee update – Diligent in acquiring new open space land; proposed plans for marking trails at the Averett Property and Boy Scout project of constructing benches at Giralda Farms.
Marilyn Murray, Open Space liaison.
- Communications Committee - F. Esposito, Chair.
WEBSITE REVIEW – Discussed and reviewed existing information on current website. Continue collaborating on a user friendly design. Will purge old information and update with new links. Also, make it visually appealing by adding new pictures. Members are encouraged to review current site for outdated information, old links etc., and report back. F. Esposito, CTEC Webmaster

- Recycling Committee
F. Esposito, Chair, and M. Murray
Frank will attend March MUA recycling meeting.

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

- Conservation Easement Subcommittee
D. Stillinger and M. Murray.
- CTEC should pursue a mechanism for conservation easement monitoring and recording.
- What is the procedure if a violation of a conservation easement is observed?
- According to remarks made at the October 22 meeting of the Township Committee a memo by Carl Woodward, former Township attorney, states that conservation easements required by the Planning Board but not accepted by the Township can be vacated at will by the Township. The opinion was delivered in connection with litigation concerning the walking easement between Pine Street and Linden Lane. The opinion also applies to an easement required by the Planning Board on a parcel on River Road on steep slopes that was proposed for a cell tower, subsequently built on Esternay Field. That conservation easement extends across the rear steep portions of a four lot subdivision proposed by Nicholas Parisi and

approved by the Planning Board in 1995. Suggest that CTEC urge the Township Committee to accept the 4 conservation easements.

- Invasive Species Subcommittee M. Palmer, Chair

Emerald ash borer comes to New Jersey

(<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/emeraldashborer.html>). Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in New Jersey in May 2014 in Somerset County. Infestations throughout the U.S. and Canada have killed tens of millions of ash trees since 2002.

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 or Advanced Data Search. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer.
- Possible projects for grants. Trails on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area? Nash Field to Green Village Road?

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- February 2016. Memo to Board of Adjustment regarding a proposed steep slope disturbance.
- January 2016. Two letters to NJDEP concerning applications for LOI.
- December 2015. Comment letter to NJDEP regarding proposed new rules for relaxing sewers and hence development in environmentally sensitive areas.
- November 2015. Two letters to NJDEP concerning applications for LOI, one letter to NJDEP concerning repair of septic system. Letter to Planning Board regarding an application for steep slopes variances. Letter to legislators concerning SCR180 regarding allowing pipelines in wetland buffers.

EVENTS

- CTEC Land Use Subcommittee meeting at 6:30 before the regular meeting. All welcome to attend; attending makes you a subcommittee member. 609 Fairmount will be reviewed.
- Friday, March 18, 2016, 20th Annual NJ Land Conservation Rally, "The Future of Land Conservation: The Next 20 Years!" Wyndham Garden Hotel, 1 W. Lafayette Street, Trenton, New Jersey. \$95 (\$80 before Feb. 29). More info at <http://www.njconservation.org/conservationrally.htm>.
- Saturday, March 19, 9am - 1:30pm, Morris County Cultural Center, 300 Mendham Road, Morristown. Annual ANJEC training for EC members. More details at info@anjec.org. Free for CTEC members.

MAIL RECEIVED

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

ADJOURN 9:05

Carolyn Scannelli