

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 2, 2026 7:15pm
58 Meyersville Rd. Chatham NJ 07928

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT: The meeting schedule for 2026 and January 2027 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building, in two newspapers and on the Chatham Township Environmental Commission website at <https://www.chathamtownship-nj.gov/environmental>. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

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.

DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM FOR 2026 AND JANUARY 2027

The first or second Wednesday, depending on the month: January 14, February 4, March 4, April 8, ~~May 6~~, June 3, July-Meeting cancelled, August NO MEETING, September 2, October 7, November 18, December 2, and January 13, 2027.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1.Roll Call of CTEC Members at 7:20pm: Present: Jessica Romeo (Chair), Lisa McHugh (Vice-Chair), Phil Ankel (Planning Board liaison), Polly Brophy JoAnne Lockwood White, Amy Mason, Pat Wells, Celeste Fondaco, (alt. 1), Steve Gesell, (alt.2)
Guests: Aanya Aditya, Melissa Gleeson, Devon Gleeson

2. Public Meeting Statement (see above)

3. Approve Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2026

Motion to approve Meeting Minutes of June 3rd, 2026

Phil motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Joanne seconded.
All in favor.

4. Recap “Quiet Summer”

During the discussion of the impact of the Quiet Summer initiative, the commission agreed to draft an ordinance for gas-powered leaf blower use in the township that will be similar to those of neighboring communities, providing consistency for landscape companies. A draft will be presented at a future CTEC meeting.

5. Review Tree Ordinance

Lisa asked the committee to send any additional comments to her directly.

6. Artificial Turf Fields

Celeste recommended a Sierra Club presentation on artificial turf and she will investigate bringing that to the commission.

7. Food Waste/Pilot Composting Program

Jessica reported that she got approval from the town to pursue a grant to pilot a community compost program. We will need to investigate collection locations.

8. Is Chatham Township Climate Ready?

Phil reported on the conditions of when Chatham Township would need a CCRHVA (Climate Change-related Hazard Vulnerability Assessment).

9. Green Team updates

Activities that CTEC manages are all part of the Green Team, including Sustainable Jersey. Chatham Township was awarded Bronze in 2024. Jessica suggested the committee visit the Sustainable Jersey website at <https://www.sustainablejersey.com>

- Pat gave an update on the set up and structure of the 2026 Sustainability Fair, which will be on September 19th. Thank you to the Gleeson family for offering their canopies for the event.

- The Jaycees awarded CTEC a \$300 grant which will be used for milkweed and other monarch friendly plants to enhance and grow the Monarch Waystation at Colony Pool. Jessica added multiple milkweed plants, joe pye weed and other native plants.

- April 3 & 4 2027 will be the dates for a Bioblitz, documenting Chatham Township's native and invasive plants. Joanne will reach out to scientists for their availability and fees that would be paid from grant money.

10. CTEC Tracker

Jessica has created a Google spreadsheet to track all of the CTEC activities. Jessica reminds all members to enter all of their community activities and individual meetings, seminars, workshops and site visits for ease of preparing the end-of-year report for the Township Committee. On September 18th, Joanne will be attending The Alliance for NJ Environmental Education (ANJEE) Outdoor Education Conference.

11. 2026 priority project list and events

Projects where public health intersects with the environment will be the priority.

- Priority projects

1. Leaf Blower Ordinance
2. Tree Ordinance
3. NRI Update

12. 2026 events (running list, not complete):

- Educational seminars:

1. Light Pollution Awareness Seminar with GSWA 2/5/26
2. "Your extraordinary Caterpillar" in partnership with the Library of the Chathams 4/22/26

- Earth Month Celebration- Invasives Walk & Talks with JoAnne– April 11th & 12th
And Take Action “What can you do” campaign; list of “Simple Ideas for Earth Month.”
- Understory project at Shunpike Field- funding provided to Annabelle Palmer for Girl Scout Silver Award 5/16/26 10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm
- Spring yard sale with Madison, Chatham Borough, GSWA- 5/2/26 –(Jessica)
- Resubmission of ANJEC NRI Grant
- Plant sale (April 1st-18th) with the Great Swamp Watershed Association.
Sale dates April 1st -21st Distribution date: May 2nd at Colony pool
- *Webinar 1: Jan 27th, 7-8pm (Soft Landings- Add life Under Trees)
- *Webinar 2: Feb 24th 7-8pm (Native Pollinator Interactions)
- *Webinar 3: March 31st 7-8pm (Plant for Pollinators- Plant Overview and Preparation)
- Fall Sustainability Fair 9/19/26 (Celeste and Pat, in coordination with Chatham Borough)
- Township Fall Festival/Fall cleanup event/Trail workday – Lisa will follow-up
- EV Expo with Madison 7 Chatham Borough 10/3/26 (Bottle Hill Day)
- Fall yard sale with Madison, Chatham Borough, GSWA- 10/17/26 (Jessica)

11. Reports:

- a. Township Committee – Craig Alperowitz -
- b. Zoning Board- Lisa McHugh- no update
- c. Planning Board – Phil Ankel- no update
- d. Open Space –Steve Gesell – no update
- e. Education and Outreach –Joanne & Jessica
- f. Invasive Species –Joanne- Bioblitz- see above
- g. Social Media – Jessica Romeo- no update
- h. Website – No Report
- i. Pollinator / Native Gardens – Jessica Romeo- see above
- j. Grants – all

13. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 7th, 2026 7:15pm
Location: Chatham Township Municipal Building

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Celeste motioned to adjourn; Phil seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Mason

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW – Lisa will continue attending site visits and preparing comments for Board of Adjustment and Planning Board applications.

ONLINE RESOURCES (update DS Feb 2026)

- NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb.
<https://dep.nj.gov/gis/nj-geoweb/>
- View parcel information for Morris County. Zoom in for parcels. Has owner information.
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7651b23561f54d4c8176d6df4b2207f0>
- Old map of Morris County parcels. Parcel information is out-of-date but map is still very useful.

<https://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher/>

- Details about each parcel in Morris County.

<https://mcweb1.co.morris.nj.us/MCTaxBoard/>

- View open space and Green Acres properties at

<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/ga50/docs/roslite.pdf>

and

<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/openspace.html>

- Legiscan to view and track NJ bills in the legislature

<https://legiscan.com/NJ/legislation>

- Chatham Township permits that have been filed. Free but have to create an account.

<https://www.sdlportal.com/>

- NJDEP status of environmental permits that have been filed

<https://dep.nj.gov/bulletin/>

- NJ State Plan Map. Zoom to see streets. Planning Area 5 is the most environmentally restrictive.

<https://dosopa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fbb0c0a8c7ce4a31b05d123426c4a79a>

- NJ State Plan. Updated 2025.

<https://www.nj.gov/state/bac/planning/state-plan/development/>

- NJ State OPRA records request

<https://nj.gov/opra/>