

**Chatham Township Environmental Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, December 3, 2025**  
**58 Meyersville Rd. Chatham NJ 07928**

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:** The meeting schedule for 2025 and January 2026 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.

**PROPOSED DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM FOR 2025 AND JANUARY 2026**

The first Wednesday except the second Wednesday in January, April, July and November 2025: January 8, February 5, March 5, April 9, May 7, June 4, July 9, August NO MEETING, September 10, October 1, November 12, December 3, 2025 and January 14, 2026.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1. Roll Call of CTEC Members at 7:30pm:** Present: Jessica Romeo (Chair), Lisa McHugh (Vice-Chair), Amy Mason, JoAnn Lockwood White, Pat Wells (alt. 1)  
Absent: Celeste Fondaco, Marty McHugh (Township Committee liaison), Steve Gesell (alt.2)  
Vacant 1, Vacant 2  
Guest: Polly Brophy

**2. Public Meeting Statement** (see above)

**3. Approve Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2025**

*Motion to approve Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2025*

Lisa motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Amy seconded. All in favor.

**4. Green Team updates**

Activities that CTEC manages are all part of the Green Team, including Sustainable Jersey. Chatham Township was awarded Bronze in 2024.

**5. Approve 2026 meeting dates**

After a brief discussion the 2026 meeting dates were decided:

January 14, 2026; February 4; March 4; April 8; May 6; June 3; July 1; August 5 (or skip August, TBD); September 2; October 7; November 11; December 2; January 13, 2027

## **6. Leave the Leaves; Shunpike Clean up**

On 11/22 at 10am, Pat and Jessica led a “Leave the Leaves” workshop for Cub Scouts at Shunpike Park. The event was well attended. There was a lot of enthusiasm and questions. The Cub Scouts also did a cleanup and helped move leaves into the enclosure to protect the plantings. A report of the event was set to Christie Tragno to be included in the Clean Communities tally. Two contractor type bags of trash were picked up and scouts and learned about the clean communities, adopt a drain, and our reforestation project.

## **7. Leaf Blower Discussion and Update**

On 12/1/25, Jessica met with three other representatives from the neighboring towns of Chatham Borough, Madison and Morris Township. It was a very productive discussion and sharing of resources. The discussion referenced the successful efforts of limiting gas-powered leaf blowers in Montclair and Maplewood. Going forward, the focus will be on the negative health implications, including respiratory issues. They also began to discuss ideas for enforcement. The group agreed the Mayors of each town should also have a conversation and the group will work to facilitate that conversation.

## **8. Idling at Chatham Public School**

It has been observed that idling in the pick-up lines at the schools has become a renewed problem. CTEC would like to reinvigorate the awareness campaign. Ideas include letters to Principals, inventory signage, PTO newsletters and announcements, school newsletters and working with student groups at CHS and CMS. Tory VanWie, the advisor of the Environmental Club at CHS, was suggested as an initial contact. This push will begin in early 2026.

## **9. CTEC Tracker**

Jessica has created a Google spreadsheet to track all of the CTEC activities. Jessica asks 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.

## **10. 2026 Commissioners and priority project list**

Jessica has repeatedly contacted the Mayor in an attempt to fill the two liaison positions open on CTEC. She is hopeful the positions will be filled in early 2026. 2026 priorities have been identified as the following:

- Leaf blower ordinance
- Tree ordinance
- Light Pollution Awareness- Seminar planned for 2/5
- resubmission for ANJEC grant (PSEG grant cycle and the NRI)
- Multi-town Yard Sales- scheduled for 5/2 and 10/17
- Native Plant Sale & workshops

## **11. 2025 events (running list, not complete):**

- Educational seminars- Jessica /Joanne
  1. Possible idea: Water Usage and impacts of increased major weather events
  2. Co-sponsor League of Women Votes webinar on “Electrifying Housing” – 2/24/25
- EV Expo with Madison and Chatham Borough – 4/26/25- Amy

- Spring yard sale with Madison, Chatham Borough, GSWA- 5/3/25 -Jessica
- Completion of ANJEC Open Space Grant/2<sup>nd</sup> planting at Shunpike-
- Plant sale (April 1st-18th) with the Great Swamp Watershed Association, distribution at Colony on 5/3/25 JR
- \*Webinar 1- Plant for Pollinators- 1/29/25 7pm-8pm
- \*Webinar 2- 2/27/25
- \*Webinar 3- 3/19/25
- \*Webinar 4- 3/31/25
- Earth Day Celebration- Seedling giveaway, trails awareness and clean-up. 4/26/25
- Fall Sustainability fair-9/20/25
- Shunpike Grove Showcase 10/10/25
- Township Fall Festival/Fall cleanup event/Trail workday- 10/18/25 (focus of invasives and provide info about pumpkin and fall plant disposal after Halloween) - Jessica, Lisa
- Fall yard sale with Madison, Chatham Borough, GSWA- 10/18/25 (rain date 10/19/25)
- Leave the Leaves event for Cub Scouts 11/22

## **10. Reports:**

- a. Township Committee – Marty McHugh- No report; absent
- b. Planning Board – a new liaison needed.
- c. Open Space – a new liaison needed.
- d. Education and Outreach – Night Skies & light pollution seminar planned for 2/5 with GSWA
- e. Invasive Species –Joanne Lockwood White – will plan a program in early April when the Spring peepers are emerging,
- f. Social Media – Jessica Romeo- No Report
- g. Website – No Report
- h. Pollinator / Native Gardens – Jessica Romeo
- i. Grants – All

**11. Next meeting:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026 7:15pm

Location: Chatham Township Municipal Building

## **12. Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn*

Jessica motioned to adjourn at 8:40pm; Lisa seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Abigail Maddi

**APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW** – Lisa will continue attending site visits and preparing comments for Board of Adjustment and Planning Board applications. Most recent: Chatham Day School

## **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/>.

- 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>.