

# Chatham Township Environmental Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 10, 7:15pm  
58 Meyersville Rd. Chatham NJ 07928

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:** The meeting schedule for 2024 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.

### APPROVED DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM FOR 2024 AND JANUARY 2025

The first Wednesday of every month except second Wednesday in January, April and July 2024: January 10, February 7, March 6, April 10, May 1, June 5, July 10, August NO MEETING, September 4, October 2, November 13, December 4, 2024 and January 8, 2025.

### AGENDA ITEMS:

**1. Roll Call** of CTEC Members at 7:22pm- Present: Jessica Romeo, presiding, Amy Mason, Lisa McHugh, Marty McHugh (Township Committee liaison), Dan Miller (Planning Board liaison), John von Knorring (alternate 2) Pat Wells (alternate 1) Absent: Jim Connelly (Open Space Liaison), Cara Pacifico-Feeser, Celeste Fondaco

### **2. Public Meeting Statement and CTEC's Purpose (see above)**

### **3. Approve Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2024:**

*Motion to approve the March 6<sup>th</sup> minutes was postponed until May as a quorum was not present at the time.*

### **4. Green Team updates**

Activities that CTEC manages are all part of the Green Team: clean ups, gardens, plant sales and tree seedling giveaways, educational webinars/meetings, etc. Silver Certification received October 2021. We are up for recertification in 2024. Application dates to focus on are May 10<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>. 2024 Sustainable Jersey (SJ)Team members/subcommittee: Jessica Romeo and alternate commissioners Pat Wells.

Jessica asked all members to step up and assume responsibility for other sections of the application.

220 Points were submitted on Feb. 24, 2024 application deadline. The goal is to submit at least a total of 350 points for the May 10, 2024 deadline.

Progress is being tracked on an excel document 'CTEC Sustainable Jersey 2024 Tracker'.

## **5. NRI Update**

**(Subcommittee Lisa, John, Jessica).** CTEC to make suggested updates to each section identified as needing updates and share with Township engineer for advice and input. Must consult the Planning Board who needs to include the NRI in the 2027 Master Plan. Relationship with Drew University in assisting with the updates in Fall 2024 being considered.

## **6. Adopt-a-Drain program**

Adopt-a-Drain is a not-for-profit organization that helps towns introduce this program to their residence. They provide maps of where the drains are located, a welcome packet and a report back to the DPW providing a metric to track progress: # of drains adopted, # of participants and amounts of debris collected. The program has launched in April 2024. Residents can sign up at <https://nj.adopt-a-drain.org>.

## **7. Shunpike Restoration Project**

Pat Wells, Jessica Romeo, Lisa McHugh have met with with Jean Epiphan from Morris County Extension Service and Rutgers Environmental stewards. A plan has been drafted and grant application is underway for an ANJEC Open Space Grant funding. CTEC will submit a letter to the Chatham Jaycees for a donation for educational signage.

## **8. Pollinator Pathway Project for Municipalities**

Amy will look materials from Jessica to review what is involved.

## **9. 2024 events (running list)**

-EV Expo with Madison and Chatham Borough \*updated time\* 11am-4pm– (4/27/24)-John will recruit volunteers through the Key Club and Environmental Clubs at CHS **(John)**

-Spring yard sale with Madison, Chatham Borough, Great Swamp Watershed Association - 5/4/24; rain date 5/5/24 **(Jessica)**

-Plant sale & distribution with the Great Swamp Watershed Association on 5/4/24 at 10:30am at Colony Pool in combination with the following seminars: **(Jessica, Pat, Celeste)**

\*Creating a Woodland Garden with Indigenous Plants & Vertical Structure – (1/18/24)

\*Plug in To Native Groundcovers (2/15/24)

\*Pollinator Conservation: Creating and Protecting Habitat for NJ's Bees, Butterflies, and Biodiversity (3/13/24)

\*Plants for Pollinators: Plant Sale Overview and Kick off with Hazel England GSWA (4/1/24)

-Celebration of Native Plants w/ the Library of the Chatham – May 2024 **(Jessica)**

Jessica will draft an ordinance regarding native plants on Municipal properties.

Amy will create publicity for the photo contest. Winner can be displayed at later events.

-Speaker event at the Library of the Chathams "Fight Invasives, Go Natives" Speaker Master Gardener Ilona Ontscherecki- 5/6/24 at 7pm. Determine an additional educational seminar

**(Jessica, Lisa)**

-Fishawack – (6/8/24) **(Celeste, Jim, Pat)** The CTEC table will include information on mosquito dunks, as well as other topics such as native plants and recap the work CTEC does in the community.

-Tree seedling giveaway- determine if we will attempt his program in the Fall. Possible dates include Fall Sustainability Fair or Township Fall Festival-TBC if this is happening **(Jim, Lisa)**

-Fall Sustainability fair – (9/21/24, 8am-1pm) **(John, Pat)**

-Fall cleanup event – Nash over to the Fenske property- DATE TBC- **(Jim, Lisa)**

-Trail work day- DATE TBC (June 1<sup>st</sup>- National Trail Day)

-Shunpike Restoration - DATE TBC – **(Jessica, Pat, Lisa)**

-Fall yard sale with Madison, Chatham Borough, Great Swamp Watershed Association (10/18/24) **(Jessica)**

## **10. Reports:**

a. Township Committee – Marty McHugh

- Marty asked for feedback from CTEC on tree replacement and the resolution for Sustainable Land Use.

-Financing is in place for the Fenske property and the final sale is imminent.

b. Planning Board – Dan Miller

c. Open Space – Jim Connelly- no report

d. Education and Outreach – Jessica Romeo

e. Invasive Species – No Report

f. Social media –if post worthy, send to Jessica

g. Website – Jessica/Jim/ All agreed a process for updating is necessary.

h. Pollinator / Native Gardens – Jessica/Pat –see Shunpike Restoration Project for current active program; sale with GSWA is under way

i. Grants- Jim Connelly- ANJEC open space grant is due 4/26/24. Jim to explore other grant opportunities.

## **11. Possible New project 2024**

Updating the Conservation Easement Inventory which was first created in 1999. This is part of the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) which can be found on the Township website.

## **12. Informational Articles**

**(Subcommittee Jessica, Lisa, Pat)** Articles will be written to be informational purposes.

“Leaf Blowing” submitted in March; “Anti-Idling” to be submitted in April.

**13. Next meeting:** Wednesday, May 1 at 7:15pm

Location has moved to the Senior Center. Parking and entrance from lower lot.

## **14. Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn*

Dan motioned to adjourn at 8:58pm; Jessica seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Abigail Maddi, Recording Secretary

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW – CTEC members attend site visits and prepare comments for Board of Adjustment and Planning Board applications.

#### 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>.