

Chatham Township Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 8, 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 Jan, April, July, Sept, Nov 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, 2025.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Roll Call of CTEC Members at 7:20pm: Present: Marty McHugh (Township Committee liaison), Jessica Romeo (Chair), Amy Mason, Celeste Fondaco, Lisa McHugh. Absent: Cara Pacifico Feeser, Jim Connelly, Mike Neibert (Planning Board), Pat Wells (alternate 1)

2. Public Meeting Statement (see above)

3. 2025 Kick off – Discussion regarding the new appointments and changes to CTEC. Mike Neibert will be replacing Dan Miller as the Planning Board liaison. John von Knorring has stepped down; we are looking for a new alternate commissioner.

4. Approve 2025 meeting schedule

6. Green Team updates – Activities that CTEC manages are all part of the Green Team. Adopt a drain is going strong. The November contest with Berkeley Heights resulted in 5 new drains being added, which is 13% of our total drains to date. The contest helped to raise awareness and build momentum.

7. 2025 events (running list, not complete): Assign 2025 events/programs to commissioners

- Determine at least two educational seminars; possibly focus on electrifying your home and issues related to water (eg: drought, flooding, soil erosion mitigation, etc)
- EV Expo with Madison and Chatham Borough - Date TBC (Amy)
- Spring yard sale with Madison, Chatham Borough, Great Swamp Watershed Association – May 3rd (rain date May 4th) and October 18th (rain date October 19th)
- Possible tree seeding giveaway (TBC) coupled with 2nd planting date at Shunpike - Date TBC (Jessica for planting; Lisa/Cara for tree seedlings)
- Plant sale with the Great Swamp Watershed Association, distribution - Date TBC (Jessica)
- *seminar 1
- *seminar 2
- *seminar 3
- *seminar 4
- Native Plant Month w/ the Library of the Chatham – May 2025 – TBD (Jessica)
- Fishawack – it was decided to forego this event in 2025
- Fall Sustainability fair (Celeste and Pat)
- Township Fall Festival; Fall cleanup; Trail workday combined event
- Fall yard sale with Madison, Chatham Borough, Great Swamp Watershed Association (10/18/24)

8. Reports:

- a. Township Committee – Marty McHugh
- b. Planning Board – Mike Neibert
- c. Open Space – Jim Connelly
- d. Education and Outreach –
- e. Invasive Species –
- f. Social Media – Jessica Romeo
- g. Website –
- h. Pollinator / Native Gardens – Jessica Romeo
- i. Grants – Jim Connelly

9. Township NRI discussion. The subcommittee is proceeding w/ the grant application to enlist the help of a consultant to update portions of the NRI that need revisions.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW – Lisa has been doing a great job, attending site visits and preparing comments for Board of Adjustment and Planning Board applications.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>
- Morris County mapping utility <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 & Green Acres properties at [https://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/ga50/docs/roslite.pdf /](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/ga50/docs/roslite.pdf/)
<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/openspace.html>