Chatham Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 1, 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 7:19pm: Present: Jessica Romeo (Chair), Celeste Fondaco, Amy Mason, Vacant 1, Vacant 2, Pat Wells (alt. 1), Steve Gesell (alt.2)
Absent: Lisa McHugh (Vice Chair), Marty McHugh (Township Committee liaison)
Guest: JoAnn Lockwood White

2. Public Meeting Statement (see above)

3. Approve Meeting Minutes of September 10, 225
Approval of minutes postponed until the November 12th meeting

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. CTEC has ongoing initiatives, programs and priorities that serve the Green Team and the community.

5. Sustainability Fair Recap
The Sustainability Fair was held on 9-20-25 during the Farmer's Market in the train station parking lot in Chatham Borough. The weather was good and it was well attended. CTEC implemented and managed the children / family area of the Fair which included (but was not limited to) The Raptor Trust who brought along a live owl and The Great Swamp National

Wildlife Refuge. Exhibits include sun scopes and a Monarch Butterfly exhibit - 3 hatched during the fair. The Sustainability Fair may be combined with Fishawack next year- to be determined.

6. Adopt a Drain
No update or conversation.

7. Miscellaneous Business
-Joann Lockwood White has agreed to lead an invasive species walk & talk. She will get back to Jessica with a few dates. The suggested location is the Green Village Conservation Trail.
-CTEC has been asked by ANJEC Environmental Congress to showcase the new Shunpike Grove. Pat is working on a banner explaining the importance of the understory.
-CTEC is awaiting a commissioner that will serve as Planning Board liaison.
-New ideas: 1) The idea of light pollution and its effects on bird migration and insects. Look into "Lights Out Night" 2) the night sky and ways to explore it.
- Use of Jaycees donation: Clear a to-be-determined area of invasives and fence it in to restore the understory.

8. Tree Ordinance
Steve and Lisa have submitted their suggestions to Ziad and Mayor Choi two weeks ago and hope to schedule a meeting to discuss.

9. 2025 events (running list, not complete):
-Determine at least two educational seminars- Jessica /Lisa
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 (rain date 5/4/25)- Jessica
-Completion of ANJEC Open Space Grant/2nd 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-10/20/25 See Sustainability Fair recap
-Shunpike Grove Showcase
-Snake Hill Clean-up with DPW, CTPD and Chatham Township Historical Society; date TBD
-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)

10. Reports:
a. Township Committee – Marty McHugh absent, no report
b. Planning Board – a new liaison needed

c. Open Space –Jessica shared CTEC feedback to survey questions regarding best use for the Fenske property
d. Education and Outreach – invasive species walk and learn w/ Joanne Lockwood White to be scheduled. Looking into workshops/seminars for Dark Skies.
e. Invasive Species – Jessica Romeo- will step in for this program
f. Social Media – Jessica Romeo- No Report
g. Website – No Report
h. Pollinator / Native Gardens – Jessica Romeo
i. Grants – All

11. **Next meeting**: Wednesday, November 12th 7:15pm
Location: Chatham Township Municipal Building

12. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn
Amy motioned to adjourn at 8:05pm; Pat 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: 355 Green Village Road

ONLINE RESOURCES
- Good NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb, http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geowebsplash.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/rosi.lite.pdf and https://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/openspace.html.