

# Chatham Township Environmental Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 10, 2023, 7:15pm  
58 Meyersville Rd. Chatham NJ 07928

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:** The meeting schedule for 2023 and January 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 second Monday of every month except October: February 12, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8 August NO MEETING, September 9, October 7, November 11, December 9 and January 13, 2025.

### AGENDA ITEMS:

**1. Roll Call** of CTEC Members at 7:15pm- Present: Jessica Romeo, presiding, Jim Connelly (Open Space Liaison), Celeste Fondaco, Lisa McHugh, Marty McHugh (Township Committee liaison) Pat Wells (alternate 1), John von Knorring (alternate 2)

Absent: Amy Mason, Cara Pacifico Feeser, Dan Miller (Planning Board liaison)

- New members John von Knorring and Marty McHugh were warmly welcomed. Outgoing member Matt Palmer is willing to consult for CTEC as needed.

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

### **3. Approve Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2024:**

*Motion to approve the December 4th minutes*

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

### **4. Approve 2024 meeting schedule**

*Motion to approve the 2024 meeting schedule*

There was a brief discussion about changing the meeting days to the second Monday of each month. The only exceptions are no meeting in August and CTEC will meet the first Monday in October due to Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day which is on the second Monday.

Jim motioned to approve moving the meeting dates to the second Monday of each month; Lisa seconded; all in favor. (See the approved dates above)

## **5. 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. The applications dates to focus on are May 10<sup>th</sup> for a preliminary submission and July 31<sup>st</sup> for the final. The Green Team subcommittee will meet to map out Sustainable Jersey application and review CTEC programs and activities over the past 12 + months.

## **6. 2024 events (running list, incomplete)**

- Determine at least two educational seminars **(Cara)**
- EV Expo with Madison and Chatham Borough - DATE TBC- **(John)**
- Spring yard sale with Madison, Chatham Borough, Great Swamp Watershed Association - 5/4/24; rain date 5/5/24 **(Jessica)**
- Tree seedling giveaway – including 100 additional trees from Arbor Day Foundation and possibly a tree cage workshop- tree delivery 4/11/24; give away 4/13/24 **(Cara, Jim, Lisa)**
- Plant sale & distribution with the Great Swamp Watershed Association in combination with the following seminars: - DATE TBC- **(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)
- Native Plant Month w/ the Library of the Chatham – May 2024 **(Jessica, Pat)**
- Fishawack – (6/8/24) **(Cara, Celeste, Jim)**
- Fall Sustainability fair – (9/21/24, 8am-1pm) **(John, Pat)**
- Township Fall Festival – DATE TBC- ?
- Fall cleanup event – Nash over to the Fenske property- DATE TBC- **(Jessica, Jim, Lisa)**
- Community work day - “Landscaping for the climate” at Castle Park. DATE TBC – **(Jessica, Jim, Pat)**
- Rain Garden workshop - DATE TBC for 2024 **(Jessica, Pat)**
- Fall yard sale with Madison, Chatham Borough, Great Swamp Watershed Association (10/18/24) **(Jessica)**

## **7. Reports:**

- a. Township Committee – Marty McHugh- No meeting yet in 2024.
- b. Planning Board – Dan Miller- Absent from meeting, no report provided
- c. Open Space – Jim Connelly- Goals for 2024 include trail improvements
- d. Education and Outreach – Jessica Romeo  
New ideas include electrify your home and rebates, interactive programs with GSWA, make your own composter and hands on compost tutorial, ideas to reduce trash, mosquito management, food challenge- reduce meat consumption
- e. Invasive Species – No Report
- f. Social media – Jessica Romeo, if post worthy, send to Jessica
- g. Website – Jessica and Jim to work on updates to feed to the Township

- h. Pollinator / Native Gardens – Jessica Romeo –explore new locations for 2024
- i. Grants- Jim Connelly- 1. ANJEC offers \$1500 grants for a wide variety of purposes.  
2. Community Energy Plan Grant Program (CEPG) offers various levels of funding for municipalities in support of the development of a Climate Action Plan.

**8. NRI** – Chatham Township is due to update our NRI. The last update was 2013 and should be updated every 10 years. Preference is to keep the name NRI vs ERI. This is a work in progress and CTEC will review and share the chapters to update; utilizing the Township assets as needed.

### **9. Possible New project 2024**

Updating the Conservation Easement Inventory which was created in 1999 and has not been updated since 2003. This is part of the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) which can be found on the Township website.

### **10. 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. This program will begin in 2024. Funding is coming from the Clean Communities grant which CTEC helps secure. The DPW cleans more than 1100 storm drains each year. This program will augment DPW's efforts and bring a greater awareness of storm drains and watershed issues. Adopt-a-Drain will count towards Sustainable Jersey.

### **11. Informational Articles Sub-Committee (Jessica, Lisa, Pat)**

Articles are only meant to be informational. More planning is needed in order to get timely articles placed in other publications such as Chatham Living which has a two-month lead time. Topics and timing will be decided by the sub-committee

### **12. Next meeting:** Wednesday February 7th at 7:15pm

Note: Location may be moved to the Senior Center. Tom Salvas will be taking a updated photo of CTEC.

### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion to adjourn*

Jim motioned to adjourn at 8:35pm; 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://meweb1.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>.