Chatham Township
Environmental Commission
. . . Act Locally!

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday March 4, 2026, 7:15pm
58 Meyersville Rd. Chatham NJ 07928

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT: The meeting schedule for 2026 and January 2027 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. The Chatham Township Environmental Commission serves as the Chatham Township Green Team / Sustainable Jersey team.

DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM FOR 2026 AND JANUARY 2027
The first or second Wednesday depending on the month:
January 14, 2026; February 4; March 4; April 8; May 6; June 3; July 1; August-No Meeting; September 2; October 7; November 11; December 2; January 13, 2027

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Roll Call of CTEC Members: Jessica Romeo (Chair), Lisa McHugh (Vice Chair), Phil Ankel (Planning Board liaison), Pat Wells, Amy Mason, Polly Brophy, Joanne White, Celeste Fondaco (alternate 1), Steve Gesell (alternate 2), Craig Alperowitz (Township Committee liaison)

2. Public Meeting Statement (see above).

3. Approve Meeting Minutes of Feb 4, 2026 meeting

4. Discuss any upcoming training sessions or special meetings, workshops. (Link to ANJEC sessions https://anjec.org/conferences-workshops/)

5. Green Team updates – Activities that CTEC manages are all part of the Green Team, including Sustainable Jersey. Feb 5 light pollution seminar was well attended and a huge success. Review 2026 Sustainability Fair planning and next steps. Grant Resolution uploaded to the Sustainable Jersey/PSEG Grant application.

6. **EARTH MONTH EVENTS (review and add):**
   *TBC – screening of "Your Extraordinary Caterpillar" in partnership with the Library of the Chathams; April 22nd, 6:30pm. CTEC would host the screening and distribute seeds (eg: milkweed) and have a speaker for a Q&A after the film.
   *Invasive Species Walk and Learns w/ Joanne on April 11th and April 12th
   *Plant sale w Great Swamp Watershed Association. Sale dates; April 1-21
   *Community Challenge: What Can You Do / Simple Steps

7. Tree ordinance update; next steps.

8. Passaic River Clean up with the Great Swamp Watershed - the Passaic River Waterkeeper - and Roots & Shoots; Saturday May 9th, 10am-12pm. CTEC has adopted a hub and will host a clean up.

9. Idling at schools – awareness campaign (PTO newsletters; school newsletter; student led initiatives at CHS and CMS; other ideas). Signs are being installed at SBS and additional signs are being added near CHS, LAF. CTEC to communicate with all local public and private schools via letter/email. CHS Env Club to host a campaign in April.

10. CTEC tracker to note events, programs, educational workshops, site visits, etc. Please keep this updated monthly. CTEC tracker .

11. **2026 events (running list, not complete): Assign 2026 events/programs to commissioners**
    -Host at least two educational seminars
    *2/5/26, Light Pollution w/ GSWA, Chatham Borough and Madison
    *TBC; 4/22/26, Your Extraordinary Caterpillar in partnership with the Library of the Chathams
    -Invasive Special Walk and Learn at the Green Village Pond Conservation Trail w/ Joanne on April 11 and 12th, 10:30am (*Joanne*)
    -Shunpike Trail understory project w/ Girl Scout Silver Award prospect; TBD for April
    -Spring yard sale tri-town yard sale w/ Great Swamp Watershed Association – 5/2/26 (rain date 5/3) *(Jessica)*
    -Plant sale w Great Swamp Watershed Association. Sale dates; April 1-21, 2026. Distribution date: May 2 at Colony Pool *(Jessica)*
    *seminar 1; Jan 27, 7-8pm (*Soft Landings Add Life Under Trees)*
    *seminar 2, Feb 24, 7-8pm (*TBC- Native Pollinator interactions)*
    *seminar 3, March 31, 7-8pm (*Plant for Pollinators Plant Overview and Prep)*
    -Fall Sustainability Fair Saturday + EV Expo , 9/19/26 9am-2pm *(Celeste and Pat)*
    -Fall cleanup event / Trail workday with info on invasive species and how they impact the ecosystem + Township Fall Festival
    -EV Expo with Madison and Chatham Borough – to be held on Bottle Hill Day, Saturday 10/3/26
    -Fall yard sale with Madison, Chatham Borough, Great Swamp Watershed Association - 10/17/26 (rain date 10/18) *(Jessica)*

12. 2026 Priority project list – discuss and capture for next meeting; assign workstream/teams.

13. Reports:
    a. Township Committee – Craig
    b. Zoning Board – Lisa
    c. Planning Board – Phil
    d. Open Space – Jessica
    e. Education and Outreach – Joanne/Jessica
    f. Invasive Species – Jessica/Joanne
    g. Social Media – Jessica
    h. Website – Township
    i. Pollinator / Native Gardens – Jessica Romeo
    j. Grants – all

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 (update DS Feb 2026)
- NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb.
https://dep.nj.gov/gis/nj-geoweb/

- View parcel information for Morris County. Zoom in for parcels. Has owner information.
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7651b23561f54d4c8176d6df4b2207f0

- Old map of Morris County parcels. Parcel information is out-of-date but map is still very useful.
https://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher/

- Details about each parcel in Morris County.
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

- Legiscan to view and track NJ bills in the legislature
https://legiscan.com/NJ/legislation

- Chatham Township permits that have been filed. Free but have to create an account.
https://www.sdlportal.com/

- NJDEP status of environmental permits that have been filed
https://dep.nj.gov/bulletin/

- NJ State Plan Map. Zoom to see streets. Planning Area 5 is the most environmentally restrictive.
https://dosopa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fbb0c0a8c7ce4a31b05d123426c4a79a

- NJ State Plan. Updated 2025.
https://www.nj.gov/state/bac/planning/state-plan/development/

- NJ State OPRA records request
https://nj.gov/opra/