



Chatham Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Agenda
Tuesday November 1, 2022
7:15 PM via Zoom

Please click the following to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83109124044?pwd=Ml9lL2R1dDVNdnowMWsycmpVdWNRZz09>

Or in the Zoom app enter

Webinar ID: 831 0912 4044

Passcode: 945885

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT: The meeting schedule for 2022 and January 2023 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 2022 AND JANUARY 2023

The first Tuesdays except second Tuesday in January 2022 and the third Tuesday in May:

January 11, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 17, June 7, July NO MEETING, August MEETING CANCELLED, September 6, October 12, November 1, December 6, 2022 and January 10, 2023.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Roll Call of CTEC Members: Celeste Fondaco (Township Committee liaison), Cara Pacifico Feeser, Amy Mason, Jim Connelly, Matt Palmer, Jessica Romeo, Lisa McHugh, Dan Miller (Planning Board), Sally O'Neil (alternate 1); Public Meeting Statement (see above)
2. Approve CTEC and Green Team Minutes of October 12, 2022
3. Climate Action Resolution. Consider asking the Township Committee to pass a climate action resolution. With the ten year anniversary of Super Storm Sandy, it is timely to discuss. The resolution is to recognize global warming-induced climate change and setting goals to take action to combat the negative effects in New Jersey. The resolution will support the state's goals to take action to stop the dramatic effects that global warming will have on NJ communities and urge other municipalities to follow suit. CTEC should work to draft and present strategic plans to fight the negative consequences associated with climate change. As summarized in the 2018 "Fourth National Climate Assessment" report, "in the absence of more significant global mitigation efforts, climate change is projected to impose substantial damages on the U.S. economy, human health, and the environment. Under scenarios with high emissions and limited or no adaptation, annual losses in some sectors are estimated to grow to hundreds of billions of dollars by the end of the century. It is very likely that some physical and ecological impacts will be irreversible for thousands of years, while others will be permanent." New Jersey, in particular, has experienced twice the global average sea level rise and twice the

average global temperature increase as a result of climate change. We can suggest that CTEC draft a set of recommendations of quantifiable goals and guidelines in line with the most effective and state supported actions to both mitigate and adapt to climate change in New Jersey. These could include suggestions to improve infrastructure, transition to renewable power sources, improve energy efficiency of municipal facilities, increase public awareness and education and lead by example. The state of New Jersey has set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 20% or less than the amount released in 2006 by 2050 and both towns have unanimously supported this goal.

4. Adding language to send with all open permit requests, look to Summit for good examples of EC language. Jessica and Amy.
5. Green Team updates – Need to source Green Team members and build a Green Team. Since Maureen Kelly is no longer part of CTEC we have not had much in the way of Green Team activities or updates. However, activities CTEC manages are all part of the Green Team: clean ups, gardens, plant sales and tree seedling giveaways, educational webinars/meetings, etc.
6. EV Charging Station Update – Vendor the Township is using: Sema. Rich and the Finance Department have been working with the vendor to complete the order. Updated the plan and the Township is looking at two charging stations – one at each of the parks, removing the municipal building location because of some issues with installation requirements.
7. Website updates/communication with residents. For now, our point of contact for any updates to the website is Z. Hoping to have upgrades at some point next year. Lisa.
8. Township fields, recreational areas (including Colony Pool) and Township Committee Resolution 2022-201 to revisit products used / any updates here? Celeste to advise on this.
9. Recycling updates – Styrofoam recycling is up and running. DPW / Christie Tragno was doing recycling inspections on Friday 10/28/22.
10. Update on pocket park at Shunpike over flow parking that would include native plants gardens – Celeste has had successful meetings and plans are underway, Celeste to update.
11. Native plant gardens installed at Shunpike field on 10/21/22. Removed all invasive barberry and non-native, dead shrubs. Moved existing shrubs to new locations in the gardens. Installed: 2 Annabelle hydrangeas, 5 Anise Hyssop, 5 Golden Alexander, 5 Coneflower, 3 Switchgrass. Pending approval for 1 additional Annabelle hydrangea and signate. DPW to add mulch. Steve Simonfay to install a Red Bud sapling.
12. NJSMA (Jessica) –In person meeting: September. October 6, 2022 at 7:30pm at the Madison Community Center in Madison was well attended and a great learning experience w/ a speaker from Siemens and Ciel. Updates are to check in on interest in looking into regional micro grid research and energy audits for our towns / offering discounted rates to residents.
13. RECAP OF 2022 PROGRAMS/EVENTS + 2023 EVENTS:
 - Private zoom with Doug Tallamy 11/2/22 at 12pm ET. CTEC, PB, ZB, DPW, Township Committee were all invited.
 - We need to compile a recap of all 2022 events and programing, along with photos.
 - Fall tri-town yard sale (10/16/22) was a success. We had XXX homes register, raising \$\$ for the Great Swamp Watershed Association.
 - 2023 events: EV Expo tentative date of Saturday 4/22/23. Spring yard sale set for Saturday 4/29/23 and Fall yard sale for Saturday 9/30/23. Tree seeding giveaway, TBC based on sate program. Plant sale, TBC in the spring. Spring clean up: TBC. Fall clean up: TBC.

14. Reports:

- a. Township Committee – Celeste Fondaco
- b. Planning Board – Dan Miller
- c. Open Space – Jim Connelly
- d. Education and Outreach – Jessica Romeo
- e. Invasive Species – Matt Palmer
- f. Social Media – Jessica Romeo, Cara Pacifico Feeser
- g. Website – Lisa McHugh (see above agenda item)
- h. Pollinator / Native Gardens – Jessica Romeo (see above agenda item/explore new locations for 2023)

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

-Application for 480-490 River Road proposed minor subdivision. The application was scheduled to be heard on October 17, 2022 at 7:30pm. Dot Stillinger attended the meeting to make some remarks. We did not send a letter from CTEC.

-When the two affordable housing lots on River Road begin to be developed CTEC will send another memo to the boards involved urging conservation easements on the upper slopes and on a wildlife corridor extending down to the road.

-Suggest that there is an opportunity now to establish a conservation zone along all the slopes on River Road.

-Frank Banisch, Township Planner, endorses the idea of a preserved Greenway along the slopes.

-Discussion. The role of the EC. The NJDEP and the Township Engineer have assumed many of the environmental oversight activities that used to be mainly the responsibility of the EC and non-profit environmental groups.

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>.