

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)
MINUTES – JUNE 18, 2020**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM. Due to the COVID-19 social interaction restrictions mandated by the Governor, this meeting was conducted by teleconference and publicized as such. The Sunshine Rule was announced and the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Members: Pat Butenis, Terry Ciarlante, Gabrielle DeSorte, Bob Doney, Ed Paul, Harleigh Pino, Stacia Regn, Art Shaw

Liaison: Rick Yeatman

Green Team: Craig Buffington, Richard Casian,

Roll Call: P. Butenis, R. Casian, G. DeSorte, B. Doney, E. Paul, S. Regn, R. Yeatman

Excused: A. Shaw

Absent: C. Buffington, T. Ciarlante, H. Pino

2. **Reading and approval of minutes from the last meeting:** E. Paul moved to approve the minutes and S. Regn seconded. Minutes were approved.

3. **Chair's report:** B. Doney explained that we have added a report from our Trails Ambassador to our standing agenda. He confirmed that the WTEC trailer is registered. He is pursuing three possible grants: the Atlantic City Electric grant, which the Chair mentioned to the Office of Emergency Management as a potential opportunity for them; the SustainableJersey school grant, which S. Regn is handling, with E. Shaw volunteering to work with her; and the Federal Recreational Trails, which is slow-going given the pandemic shutdown. There was a discussion about what the grant might fund, to include road maintenance in the State forest, parking lot improvements at Burnt Mill, and additional upgrades, including parking

around Atco Lake. G. DeSorte and E. Shaw volunteered to form a sub-committee to work on this.

4. Clean Communities: S. Regn:

- Annual T-shirt contest: S. Regn will meet with school superintendent Brenda Haring on July 15 to see if the winners can be recognized at an in-person July or August school board meeting.
- Spring clean-up: maybe one in early fall.
- Clean Communities grant: We just received the 2018 grant for \$24,982. We have a \$10,000 balance from the 2017 grant. We have purchased clean up supplies and equipment and hired two part-time college students to work on clean-up projects through August.

5. Township Liaison: R. Yeatman reported that the Township and its Recreation Committee had received a grant from the Department of Transportation to establish a roadside bike path between Ritter Field and the Thomas Richards School. He advised the WTEC to submit any bills for any Covid-19 related items purchased to the Township CFO, explaining that there will be another opportunity to obtain reimbursement later in the year. He confirmed that we could get reimbursed for purchase of masks and gloves for future WTEC events. R. Yeatman also advised that the Democratic Club will hold a clean-up along Jackson Road on June 27 and requested supplies from the WTEC for that event.

6. Planning Board Liaison: E. Paul reported that the new owner of the old school on the Old White Horse Pike still requires a use variance as well as approval from the Pinelands Commission. Also, the Planning Board is working to get plans to develop the Haines Boulevard property back on track. In response to a question about the existence of a business development committee, R. Yeatman reported that there is a recently established business promotion committee headed by Mike Ward. It has met once and its meetings are open to the public.

7. **Trails Ambassador:** R. Casian and the Chair suggested that R. Casian lead WTEC members on a tour of some of the trails in the Township and there was a lot of interest in such an outing, likely on a Saturday.

8. **Old Business:**

- Plastics recycling/single use program: Nothing new to report.
- Sustainable Jersey: the Chair confirmed that the recertification deadline for 2020 has been deferred until December 31, 2021.
- Tree Recovery Program: P. Butenis reported that 193 seedlings were distributed to 37 Township residents and the remaining seven seedlings (bur oaks) were planted by Public works at the Burnt Mill athletic field.

9. **New Business:**

- Fishing derby: the Chair confirmed that we hoped to hold the fishing derby on the free fishing day (no permit required) on October 17 (Saturday). E. Paul suggested we order masks and gloves for the event.

10. **Pinelands Commission letters:** No notifications.

11: **Meeting Open to the Public:** None

12. **Comments from Membership:** E. Paul suggested we consider if there was interest in establishing a community garden similar to the one at Pole Hill Park, on Rte. 561 in Gibbsboro. There may be grants available for this kind of project.

13: **Adjournment:** E. Paul made a motion to adjourn which G. DeSorte seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Next proposed meeting date: Thursday, July 16 at 7:00PM via teleconference