

Waterford Township Environmental Commission (WTEC)

Minutes – October 19, 2017

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M. Sunshine Law was announced and the flag was saluted.

Members: Craig Buffington, Pat Butenis, Terri Chiddenton, Dave Chiddenton, Charlie Damiani, Dennis LaMagna, Ed Paul, Sal Russomanno, Art Shaw

Liaison: Al Campbell

Green Team: Richard Casian

Roll Call: Pat Butenis, R. Casian, T. Chiddenton, D. Chiddenton, C. Damiani, E. Paul, A. Shaw

Excused Members: C. Buffington, A. Campbell, D. LaMagna, S. Russomanno

2. Meeting Open to the Public: Mason Sherman, a member of Boy Scout Troop # 159, attended the WTEC meeting as a requirement for his “Communication” merit badge. He introduced himself, his mother, and his sister, who also attended.

3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes from last Meeting: A motion was made by C. Damiani and seconded by E. Paul, with P. Butenis abstaining. Minutes were approved

4. Clean Communities Report (T. Chiddenton): The updated twp. Littering Report was handed to the members, as well as the latest ANJEC award, which was received at the ANJEC Congress at Mercer County College. The award will be dedicated to the Twp. Committee during their next televised meeting. Terri also mentioned an interesting idea from the ANJEC Congress, which was the annual or bi-annual scheduling of local environmental commissions at a Roundtable session. She had been involved in joint meetings of commissions in the past, and would like to revive this concept. Lastly, she reported that we are still receiving complaints about the Gibbins Court retention basin (downed fencing, overgrown, trash).

5. Report from Township Committee Liaison (Campbell): None

6. Report from Planning Board Member (Russomanno): The “corvette junkyard” (Carty’s) will not have its business license renewed until the vehicles have been removed.

7. Old Business:

- The final fishing line tube has been completed and installed at Atco Lake.
- The Maple Island Trail Marking Project is progressing.
- Mosquito Identification Traps will be installed next year, due to the lateness of the season.
- Although the weather for the Fall Clean-up was a bit damp, D. Chiddenton praised the commission members for their near-perfect attendance, which contributed to the successful clean-up. The dumpsters were full, and we collected 10 tires and 15 pieces of

electronic equipment. The Shredding Event was not as successful, and the members concluded that we will hold only one shredding event a year, with it most likely coinciding with the Camden County Hazardous Waste collection.

8. New Business:

- P. Butenis will talk to Twp. Administrator, S. Danson, about the possibility of establishing local “No Mow Zones.” T. Chiddenton explained another interesting idea she had heard at the ANJEC Congress, wherein other towns had transformed retention basins into wildflower “No Mow Zones.” Pat will look into this possibility, as well.
- Camden County Parks announced plans to improve the Atco Lake dam, as well as create a walking path around the lake.
- Winter on the Ave. will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2nd. The WTEC has been assigned a table location inside the firehouse.

9. Sustainable Update: We have attained our Bronze Level of Certification for 2017 !!!!!!!

10. Comments from Membership: R. Casian informed us that we need to supply more trail maps for the Marilyn Beard Trailhead map box. E. Paul suggested that we discuss joint service agreements to complete Sustainable actions during future Roundtable sessions. T. Chiddenton reported on research she had completed in relation to a “pool water” question, which was mentioned during our last meeting. The DEP has determined that pool water, which has sat in the sun for 10 days, without added chlorine, has naturally dechlorinated sufficiently enough to be drained into our streets and storm drains without adverse consequences for our plants, fish, or wildlife. E. Paul asked for further research for drainage after a rain event. Although swimming season is over, the members agreed that this information should be posted on our facebook page. D. Chiddenton mentioned that the N.J. Dept. of Rivers and Dam Safety has granted an extension to the owners of the Beaver Lake dam. Lastly, we discussed the possibility of our residents adopting their neighboring storm drain, as in cleaning debris off the grates, so that rainwater can flow unimpeded. T. Chiddenton said she would look into an “Adopt-a-Spot” possibility for a future group to be assigned to storm drains.

11. Meeting Open to the Public: Mason questioned the possibility of planting milkweed at the retention basins and “No Mow Zones” for the monarch butterflies. We explained that milkweed seeds will be handed out at our next Spring Fling, along with literature for planting and maintaining them. The members then thanked Mason for his interest in such an important concept, and for his and his family’s attendance at our meeting.

12. Adjourn: Motion was made by A. Shaw and seconded by E. Paul to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Next Proposed Meeting Date: November 16th, at 7:30 P.M.

