

Waterford Township Environmental Commission

August 20th, 2015 Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order at 7:36 P.M. Sunshine Law was announced, flag was saluted.

Members Present: Rich Beswick, Craig Buffington, Terri Chiddenton, Charlie Damiani, Sal Russomanno, Eva Suriani Liaison: Dave Chiddenton Excused: Julia Levoch-Day, Art Shaw

2. Meeting Open to Public: S. Harney arrived while the meeting was progressing, and seeing a large audience, sat in the courtroom with the public. We were advised to hold our meeting in the municipal courtroom because a large number of Jeep 4X4 Club members wished to discuss the N.J. Dept. of Parks & Forestry's progress in closing off certain damaged roads within the Wharton State Forest. Jason Howell, who is a representative from the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and Cindy Randazzo, a high ranking official from the N.J.D.E.P., were present to answer the club members' questions. Mayor W. Richardson and town B.A. S. Danson were also present. Many questions needed research, so it was generally agreed upon that the Town Committee would continue the topic at their meeting the following week. We also had a presentation from Dan McGinnis, who is working towards his Eagle Scout ranking. He plans to continue a bat habitat project that was initiated last year by Eagle Scout Justin Day. He will attend a future WTEC meeting in order to display blueprints for 20 new bat houses, which will be erected at local retention ponds.

3. Minutes for Approval: A motion was made by C. Damiani and seconded by R. Beswick to approve the minutes from the July 16th meeting. Minutes were approved, with three abstentions from C. Buffington, S. Russomanno, and E. Suriani, due to their absences.

4. Clean Community Report: T. Chiddenton reported that the War Memorial Committee has been paid for past Adopt-a-Spot clean-ups. She also wrote a progress report for the commission's Open Space Grant. Lastly, she received approval from the members to apply for an ANJEC Award.

5. Report from Township Committee Liaison: D. Chiddenton explained that every zone in town had brush removed from the disastrous straight-line wind storm in June. All zones will be revisited until brush is completely removed. A chipper program will also be reintroduced.

6. Report from Planning Board Member: R. Beswick reported that plans for the church on White Horse Pike are on hold, since they have not met eight environmental concerns, as of yet. Approval for holding soccer tournaments at the Tuckahoe Turf Farm is still pending, as legal wording continues to be in the editing process. A swimming pool at Beechwood Dr. has been approved, and plans for a new house at Raritan and Cooper Rds. are up for review.

7. Old Business: We briefly discussed plans for Waterford Twp. Days, since the open session for the meeting ran late. ANJEC will definitely supply games, hand-out materials, and musicians for the event. We will have our regular environmentally educational hand-outs, along with flyers with "Illegal Dumping," "Adopt-a-Spot," and Town Clean-up information. We will also display the three winning designs from the T-shirt Contest, although they will not be given away. Lastly, we will award a rain barrel to the winner of one of the ANJEC games.

8. New Business: After reviewing available dates for the Fall Town Clean-up, the commission members agreed that Oct. 17th would be the most suitable choice. T. Chiddenton said she would check with Dave Fanz, of the Clementon Gun Club, to see if this date would be agreeable for them, as well. Members were also asked if they were interested in attending Sustainable Jersey's Nov. 17th Awards Luncheon in Atlantic City. Waterford Twp. would be recognized as one of the towns that achieved Bronze Level status. R. Beswick, C. Damiani, S. Harney, and T. & D. Chiddenton are all pleased to attend. Finally, the members were polled to see if they would like to submit an environmentally themed scarecrow for the town's "Decorate the Ave. – Fall 2015." T. Chiddenton made a motion to approve the submission, which was seconded by C. Damiani.

9. Sustainable Updates: The action entitled "Supporting Local Businesses" has been submitted. The "Holding a Green Fair," "Community/School Gardens," "Inventory & Upgrade of Municipal Buildings," and "Diversity on Boards & Commissions" actions are in progress, and will be sent for review as soon as the Sustainable municipal dashboard is capable of receiving additional actions.

10. Comments from Membership: D. Chiddenton announced that the DPW was punctual in supplying worksheets which documented the 6 weeks of work accomplished by the Clean Communities Grant Summer Workers. He has also received paperwork which records locations of cleaned storm drains and amount of debris collected.

11. Meeting Open to Public: No public remained for the duration of our meeting.

12. E. Suriani made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by R. Beswick. Meeting was adjourned at 10:04 P.M.

Next Meeting: September 17th at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by T. Chiddenton

