

Waterford Township Environmental Commission

May 21st, 2015 Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order at 7:37 P.M. Sunshine Law was announced, flag was saluted.

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

2. Meeting Open to Public: Committeeman R. Yeatman was present, as well as resident Frank Scelso. Mr. Scelso, who lives on Cannery Row, explained that he is dealing with some very problematic situations. His neighbor does not maintain his property, has built a ramshackle shed with no permit, and will not remove diseased trees which spread over to Mr. Scelso's property. More importantly, there is a drainage ditch behind his house, which leads to a retention pond. Both areas should be maintained by the township, but are not. He had spoken to D. Chiddenton before the meeting, who has notified the Town Administrator and Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer of these situations. We agreed with Mr. Scelso that there is a maintenance ordinance, and although the WTEC has no legal authority to correct these complaints, we will follow through to the personnel who does.

3. Minutes for Approval: A motion was made by C. Damiani and seconded by R. Beswick to approve the minutes from the April 16th meeting. Minutes were approved with abstentions from S. Harney and A. Shaw, due to their absences.

4. Clean Community Report: T. Chiddenton reported that members from the Loudon Volunteer Fire Company completed their second clean-up of Jackson Rd. for the year, which entitles them to their first Clean Communities payment. S. Harney commented that she has witnessed a family picking up litter along Raritan Ave. R. Beswick and E. Suriani wondered if we could make a monthly post on Facebook highlighting residents who are actively improving upon our community. Perhaps those who go far beyond the call of duty could receive a certificate at a town meeting. T. Chiddenton was also pleased to announce that our town has received an ANJEC Open Space Grant as a result of our assistance in the DEP's "Illegal Dumping" campaign.

5. Report from Township Committee Liaison: Although D. Chiddenton was accepting an award from the N.J. Transit Authority in Long Branch at the time of our meeting, he prepared a report for T. Chiddenton to read. The water tower is complete. Two feet of sediment were removed from the bottom of the tank. It was then scraped, power washed, flushed, and painted. The tower will now be on a yearly inspection program. He announced (during a televised township meeting) the date and details of our upcoming Fishing Tournament, and the May 30th shredding event at Camden County College. D. Chiddenton then relayed the collection amounts of trash (86) and recyclable (36) 50 gallon bags, tires (27), and electronics (57 with 17 T.V.s) at our Spring Clean-up. We had 77 volunteers assist us with this event. He also announced that the town received \$5,000 more in Clean Communities Grants than it had the year before. His last announcement was in regards to E. Suriani's "Waterford Walks" program, as mentioned in New Business below. The DPW received a list of all streets that were canvassed by WTEC members for the DEP "Illegal Dumping" campaign. They will be installing 12X18 "NO DUMPING" signs, which will list the town ordinance on them. C. Buffington, T. Chiddenton, and he stenciled 10 storm drains in April, then recorded their GPS locations. There are now 56 stenciled and identified storm drains, as mandated per the 2014 Storm Water

Permit Report. Finally, D. Chiddenton acknowledged the property dilemmas presented by Mr. Scelso, Ms. Jackson (Ellwood Ave.), and a home on Rosella and Maple Aves.

6. Report from Planning Board Member: Although the last two Planning Board meetings were canceled (due to a lack of applications), R. Beswick did inform the members that the church/school on the White Horse Pike was approved and operational.

7. Old Business: The success of the Spring Town Clean-up was covered in D. Chiddenton's Township Committee report, as was the latest progress with the storm drains. T. Chiddenton gladly announced that she delivered extra "No Dumping" magnets and flyers to the Clementon Gun Club, as several hunters inquired about them, since they come upon dump sites during various hunting seasons. She also stated that the old WTEC website has been removed and replaced with our Facebook page. Lastly, the Township and School Board certificate presentations to the three winners of the WTEC T-shirt Contest were a great success for all involved. Hopefully, the winners and their families will join commission members during the Memorial Day Parade.

8. New Business: T. Chiddenton made a motion to request permission to order three Fishing Tournament banners as a means to advertise this upcoming event. R. Beswick seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously. E. Suriani's daughter, Krystal, designed an appealing new flyer to post around town. Members were then assigned businesses to request sponsorships, many of which were the same businesses they approached last year. Details for the Memorial Day Parade were then discussed. E. Suriani spoke about her "Waterford Walks" program, which compliments a Sustainable Jersey action she submitted last year. She would also like to implement a summer activity for school aged children. S. Harney suggested that this summer program may be better suited for the Recreation Committee, which also includes the WTAA.

9. Comments from Membership: C. Damiani attended a Camden County Open Space meeting, which he did not believe addressed our needs. Instead, he would like to become involved with the Wharton State Forest Volunteer Group which has recently formed. He also mentioned a dump site which he had photographed and reported to the DEP. Discussion of Sustainable Actions will be resumed after the Fishing Tournament. T. Chiddenton wondered if our next meeting should be moved back a week, due to the Hammonton High School graduation, but upon reflection, realized that it is important that we should meet once more before the Fishing Tournament.

10. Meeting Open to Public: R. Yeatman inquired about the status of bat houses which were erected last year. T. Chiddenton replied that the houses which were the Eagle Scout project of Justin Day have been scrutinized, and, happily, many are inhabited.

11. A. Shaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by E. Suriani. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Next Meeting: June 18th at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by T. Chiddenton

