

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)  
MINUTES – AUGUST 20, 2020**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 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: C. Buffington, P. Butenis, R. Casian, T. Ciarlante, G. DeSorte, B. Doney, E. Paul, A. Shaw, R. Yeatman

Excused: S. Regn

Absent: H. Pino

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

3. **Chair's report:** we can do a Clean Communities clean up in the fall, likely on a Saturday in October. S. Regn will organize the event and all members are asked to pitch in and help. We will coordinate the event with the Town Council, the Waterford Civic and Events Association, and other partners. We decided not to hold a separate WTEC clean-up. The Chair is talking with Public Works about the status of the state requirement to test public water supplies for PFAS. On August 12 the Township Council passed resolution #2020-197 reaffirming and continuing the formation of a Green Team for the

SustainableJersey program. There has been no further action on the New Jersey Environmental Justice bill.

**4. Clean Communities:** the Chair reported:

- Clean Communities grant: Our 2017 balance is \$4000. Please send any suggestions for utilizing these funds to S. Regn.
- Recycling/trash education: S. Regn is developing an outreach effort to residents likely to be launched when we switch over to in-house waste collection in January 2021. It was suggested that businesses also be notified of the requirement to report tonnage collected to the Township. All ideas welcome.
- PPE supplies: the Township has purchased about 200 masks using state emergency funds, and we have a large supply of gloves in the trailer.

**5. Township Liaison:** R. Yeatman reported no apparent developments regarding the sale of Atco Dragway. The Dragway's Facebook page has events scheduled for October. Regarding the Atco Lake upgrade, Township and County officials will meet on Tuesday, August 25 at the Lake and WTEC members are welcome to attend. WTEC is asked to join with other community groups on Saturday, August 29 at 10:00AM to clean up an existing Lake trail. The Township is also seeking advice and assistance from Green Acres for a "skating park" at the Thomas Richards complex (Fernwood and Lincoln avenues).

**6. Planning Board Liaison:** E. Paul reported that there were no applications on the agenda but there was discussion of our 2017 affordable housing settlement, proposed for Haines Boulevard. There is a court order and the Township has to adopt an ordinance.

**7. Trails Ambassador:** R. Casian observed that we all enjoyed our trails tour and it was suggested that the WTEC hold a similar event in the forest in the fall, perhaps a picnic or kayaking. The Chair said he was following up on the QR code for the Wharton trails map at Burnt Mill and P. Butenis said the Batsto office of the DEP's Division of Parks & Forestry, where she obtained a supply of hard copy maps, remains closed.

## **8. Old Business:**

- Plastics recycling/single use program: the Chair reported no action on the bill approved by the NJ Senate banning single use plastic and paper bags. He is in touch with legislative staff for Senator Linda Greenstein, the vice chair of the Senate's environment and energy committee.
- Sustainable Jersey: the Chair reminded members to register on the SJ web site and to familiarize themselves with it. He said that P. Butenis, E. Paul and he had divvied up 12 "planned" actions and would be contacting others to ask them to take on other actions. He asked if someone could create a spreadsheet to track our SJ actions and corresponding point totals.
- Atlantic City Electric grant: the Mayor thanked E. Paul for writing the grant application for \$5000 for a feasibility study for the bike trail project. The application was submitted and we should hear by September 4 if our grant has been approved.

## **9. New Business:**

- Fishing derby: to be held on October 17. Further discussion with the Township regarding social distancing is planned and as well as checking with the County parks department about opening up additional shore area to facilitate distancing.
- Stormwater regs/retention ponds: P. Butenis asked that WTEC members sensitize the planning board and other Township officials to the desirability of including green infrastructure in any township or commercial development projects. She pointed out that the retention pond in the recently upgraded Ritter field, next to the hockey rink, could have been a raingarden instead of stones and weeds. This is the direction in which much of the state is moving and even without a storm water master plan Waterford can still undertake such projects.
- WTEC social media: T. Ciarlante reported that she and G. DeSorte had given a draft plan to the Chair for a WTEC tab on the Township's website which will include links to related organizations, like ANJEC.

- Adopt a Highway program: there was discussion about different requirements for adopting a highway and keeping it litter free, depending on whether it was a township, county or state road. The Waterford Township Democrat Committee has been cleaning up Jackson Road for several years and would like to formally adopt the road and have a sign posted. The Chair will call Jack Sworaski of the County Division of Environmental Affairs for clarification.

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

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

12. **Comments from Membership:** None

13: **Adjournment:** E. Paul made a motion to adjourn which A. Shaw seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

**Next proposed meeting date: Thursday, September 17 at 7:00PM via teleconference**