

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)
MINUTES – JULY 16, 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: C. Buffington, P. Butenis, R. Casian, T. Ciarlante, G. DeSorte, B. Doney, E. Paul, H. Pino, S. Regn, A. Shaw, R. Yeatman

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

3. **Chair's report:** the Chair will submit WTEC members' names to ANJEC again to make sure we all get their emails. The New Jersey Environmental Justice bill passed in the Senate and is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly's Environment and Solid Waste Committee on July 20. The bill would require the Department of Environmental protection to take into account the cumulative impacts of pollution on the health of a community before a pollution-creating facility can be built or expanded. ANJEC supports this legislation and urges people to contact their legislators. It looks like we may qualify for a feasibility study for our bike trail project from an Atlantic City Electric grant (\$2000-5000) and E. Paul volunteered to write the grant application. R. Yeatman advised that the first proposed path for the trail, through wooded areas, was rejected for security reasons (children would have to walk through rather isolated areas) so the trail will now use existing

paved roads. He will add the bike trail to the agenda of the Zoom township council meeting on July 22.

4. Clean Communities: S. Regn:

- Annual T-shirt contest: S. Regn met with school superintendent Brenda Harring who advised that the school board would continue virtual meetings for the time being, so no opportunity for student winners to be recognized. Given that we have not had the T-shirts made yet, we decided to close this agenda item without further action.

- WTEC clean-up: we'll meet on September 19 (Saturday) and members should send suggestions for areas to clean up to Stacia. R. Yeatman asked if the Waterford Democrats qualify for a sign recognizing the several clean-ups they have done in past years and Stacia will look into it.

- Clean Communities grant: Our 2018 balance is \$8200 out of which Stacia will pay the part-time workers who are cleaning areas, like the recreation fields and replacing deteriorating recycling stickers on bins and putting them on bins we missed the first time. We will also buy Covid-19 related supplies for our future use, like gloves, etc.

5. Township Liaison: R. Yeatman reported that the township will convert a property next to Atco Lake into parking for lake visitors. The township will bring trash collection in-house beginning in January. We expect to save \$200,000 from this switch from Republic. We continue to pursue a \$25,000 grant from the county that would cover 50% of the cost to resurface the tennis courts and hockey rink on our recreational fields. Townships are now required to test our water for PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) while private well owners will have to test when the property is sold.

6. Planning Board Liaison: E. Paul reported that there was no meeting last time but one is scheduled this week, for a homeowner applying to build a pole barn. There are no environmental concerns.

7. Trails Ambassador: R. Casian:

- Trails tour: R. Casian will lead WTEC members on a trails tour on Saturday, July 25, meeting at 8:45AM at Burnt Mill. We expect eight members and all must wear masks and observe social distance in the vehicles.
- QR map code: the Chair will check with the mayor on the status.

8. Old Business:

- Plastics recycling/single use program: the Chair said ANJEC urged people to push for the bill approved by the Senate banning single use plastic and paper bags. It awaits action by the Assembly.
- Sustainable Jersey: the Chair, E. Paul and P. Butenis will form a sub-committee to manage our participation in SJ's program.

9. New Business:

- Fishing derby: to be held on October 17. The township solicitor is reviewing the liability waivers for all sporting events.
- Stormwater regulations: R. Yeatman said the township was aware of the requirement to develop ordinances to comply with DEP's new green infrastructure rules. He also advised that Waterford does not have a written stormwater management plan.
- Retention ponds: P. Butenis proposed consideration of turning one of the township's stormwater retention ponds into a green infrastructure project; i.e., a rain garden utilizing native plants to filter pollutants from the water. It was pointed out that the township has not had any problems with stormwater runoff but she said the water still carried pollutants even if it did not flood roads. The Chair mentioned that runoff carried polluted water into a stream near his home which used to be clear and clean, but not anymore. We agreed to leave the item on the agenda and continue discussion.
- WTEC social media: the Chair said we got approval to have a WTEC tab placed on the township's website which will replace our Facebook page which has been difficult to administer. T. Ciarlante and G. DeSorte will develop our new webpage. It was suggested that we still maintain a Facebook presence and we agreed to revisit the issue.

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

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

12. **Comments from Membership:** T. Ciarlante asked if the WTEC was involved in any way with the sale of the Atco dragstrip. R. Yeatman explained that the Township was not involved at this point, that there were several parties interested in perhaps maintaining the dragstrip while one party proposes to open an automobile auction enterprise. Someone asked about the environmental violations, including the owner clearing all the trees in one area. It was pointed out that whoever buys the property will still have to address the violations, including replanting trees in the cleared area.

13: **Adjournment:** T. Ciarlante made a motion to adjourn which G. DeSorte seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:25.

**Next proposed meeting date: Thursday, August 20 at 7:00PM via
teleconference**