

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)  
MINUTES – APRIL 18, 2019**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. Sunshine Rule was announced and the flag was saluted.

**Members:** Pat Butenis, Dave Chiddenton, Terri Chiddenton, Charlie Damiani, Bob Doney, Tom Giangliulo, Dennis LaMagna, Ed Paul, Art Shaw

Honorary Member: Al Campbell

Liaison: Mary Sura

Green Team: Richard Casian, Craig Buffington

Roll Call: C. Buffington, P. Butenis, R. Casian, D. Chiddenton, T. Chiddenton, C. Damiani, B. Doney,

Excused: A. Campbell, A. Shaw

Absent: T. Giangliulo, D. LaMagna, E. Paul, M. Sura

2. **Meeting open to the public:** none present

3. **Reading and approval of minutes from the last meeting:** P. Butenis moved to approve the minutes and B. Doney seconded. Minutes were approved.

4. **Clean Communities:** T. Chiddenton reported that the Sierra Club completed a partial clean up and, as previously agreed, this last clean up and the previous one together would constitute a single action and therefore eligible for the regular payment. Terri, D. Chiddenton and P. Butenis staffed the WTEC table at Waterford School's Health Fair on April 16, which was sparsely attended. It wasn't clear how widely advertised the event was with parents. Terri also described an environmental assembly she attended, which was presented by Jay Mankita (Playful Engineers), on April 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Atco & T.R. schools and suggested we hire him for future Health Fairs, to have a more interactive event for children and their parents.

5. **Report from Township Liaison:** No report

6. **Report from Planning Board Liaison:** No report

7. **Old Business:**

- Republic Representative Presentation: the Chair reported that the flyer announcing the changes in recycling still needs to be amended, to now include glass bottles. The county's recycling information will also be changed so that the county and Republic will be giving residents the same guidelines on recycling.

- Clean up/South Jersey Scrub Results: The Chair commented on the great turn out of volunteers for our clean up on April 6. P. Butenis reported that the Pinelands Preservation Alliance/Watershed Ambassadors/WTEC clean up on April 7 was a success, with about 30 volunteers cleaning up four different dumping/party areas in Wharton forest. The container with the trash has been removed from the Burnt Mill parking lot. There was a discussion about PPA's suggestion that there be cameras placed at the worst dumping areas, to obtain information to pass to the police for follow up. We noted as well the danger of fire if people are partying and building bonfires. Not everyone approved of cameras but Pat will discuss the idea with PPA and report back. B. Doney noted that even if people thought there were cameras when there weren't, that could still have a deterrent effect.

- T-Shirt Presentation at Township Meeting: We have asked Administrator Susan Danson if we could present the certificates for the T-shirt designs at the township meeting on May 8. We are waiting for her go-ahead.

8. **New Business:**

- Free Shredding Event: The Chair said the contract with the shredding company has been signed for the event on May 18, 10AM-12PM. It will be advertised on social media, on the electronic signboard, and at a sign at the HazMat collection location held on the same day.

- Fishing Tournament: to be held on June 8. The Chair reported that in 2018, we accrued \$760 in donations and also gift certificates as well for prizes. The police will provide a hot dog and soda stand and we may get coverage by TV channel 29.

9. **Sustainable Jersey Action Update:** The Chair reported that by June we hope to have 320 points and only need to reach 350 points to claim Silver again.

10: **Pinelands letters:** The Chair reported receipt of a Pinelands Commission letter on its final decision regarding an increase in the number of soccer games permitted at the Tuckahoe Turf Farm. The number of tournaments was increased from 9 to 13.

11. **Comments from Membership:** the Chair and T. Chiddenton reported on their participation in a Department of Environmental Protection tour of the Sandy Causeway area, which DEP was considering for inclusion in its Atlantic White Cedar restoration project. Two State Forestry Service representatives led the tour and described a DEP plan to cut down the non-native trees, use Round Up to kill off other vegetation, and then plant the cedars. When questioned about the advisability of using Round Up, the FS reps mentioned that several organizations, including the Sierra Club was against the idea. (Note: the WTEC is not pleased with this procedure, as well.) The group also visited an area where the cedars had been restored ten years ago which were thriving.

The Chair met with the manager of the Berlin Shoprite to propose the store offer shoppers the option of packing purchases in cardboard boxes (like BJs), to cut down on the use of plastic bags. B. Doney wondered if Shoprite could also establish a BYOB check-out line. The Chair also mentioned the possibility of establishing a WTEC junior group, to encourage students to become involved in environmental activities. He also reported our budget balance of \$2628 but there were several invoices pending payment from the Clean Up.

T. Chiddenton reminded members of the June 14 Sustainable Jersey Summit and encouraged WTEC attendance. The Chair and C. Damiani were scheduled to appear on a Firewise panel at the Summit but subsequently a panel of township mayors was invited to talk about their towns' participation in SJ's program and Mayor Richardson will represent us. She and the Chair also attended the last Tri-County meeting whose main topic was recycling and the changes being made throughout the state. T. Chiddenton will attend Monroe Township's EC meeting and A. Shaw had earlier said he would go to Monroe's Green Team meeting.

The Chair congratulated C. Damiani for the award of a \$5000 grant from Firewise Communities which would go toward the township's purchase of a roadside slope mower.

12: **Meeting Open to the Public:** Rick Yeatman, who arrived during the meeting, inquired about the status of the bat houses the Boy Scouts had erected, wondering if we had surveyed the bat population to determine any increase. He also said he had spoken with one of the owners of the Atco Brewing Company regarding possible environmentally sound uses for the waste product from the brewing process.

13: **Adjourn:** Motion was made to adjourn by C. Damiani and seconded by T. Chiddenton.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09PM.

**Next proposed meeting date: Thursday, May 16 at 7:00PM**