

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)**  
**MINUTES – MAY 21, 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, T. Ciarlante, R. Casian, G. DeSorte, B. Doney, S. Regn, A. Shaw, R. Yeatman

Absent: H. Pino

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

3. **Chairman's report:** B. Doney introduced S. Regn as the new Clean Communities Coordinator who has also been nominated as an alternate member. He deferred the remainder of his report until the end of the meeting.

4. **Clean Communities:** S. Regn:

- Annual T-shirt contest: although winners were selected, due to Covid-19 restrictions all action is on hold. S. Regn will contact school superintendent Brenda Harring to discuss her views on how we can proceed.
- Spring clean-up: also cancelled but we hope we can hold one in the fall.

- Clean Communities grant: the 2017 grant balance is \$13,000. We anticipate receiving about \$30,000 for the 2018 grant and next month we will file for the 2019 grant.
- Health & welfare fair: this was scheduled for May but due to the Covid-19 school closing we expect to schedule next year.

5. **Township Liaison:** R. Yeatman confirmed that the Fishing Derby is cancelled with a new date likely in the fall. He participated in a conference call with other mayors and the governor, who said communities should not hold Memorial Day parades and no fireworks for July 4. Regarding Atco Lake, the mayor said that long overdue work had begun, with a boat ramp installed, roadside vegetation removed, and greater parking access, with trails, benches and signage at a later date. The Chair suggested that Clean Communities funds might be able to support the Fishing Derby in the fall, as the Mayor noted that businesses might be unable to donate to the event given the tough economic situation.

6. **Planning Board Liaison:** E. Paul reported that the Planning Board had not met but were looking at a Zoom meeting.

## 7. **Old Business:**

- Plastics recycling/single use program: the Chair said he continues to monitor the progress of the bill in the state legislature banning single-use plastics. C. Buffington wondered about the impact of the preference for single use plastic bags in grocery stores, as a precaution against Covid-19.
- Sustainable Jersey: the Chair reported that the recertification deadline for 2020 has been deferred until 2021.
- Trail maps: P. Butenis reported that R. Casian had kept the Burnt Mill kiosk stocked with maps but had run out and that she would get another supply once the lockdown had lifted. The Mayor had approved our request to have a QR logo created and posted on the kiosk so people could download the map as well. She will forward to WTEC members the links to two Pinelands mapping tools, for their information.

## **8. New Business:**

- Tree recovery program: P. Butenis reported the plan for distribution of the 200 tree seedlings we requested from the NJ Forest Service. She will pick up the seedlings, plastic bags and informational handouts on May 28 for WTEC distribution on a drive-by basis on Saturday, May 30, 10-12PM in the municipal building parking lot. The Chair is coordinating with the police chief for traffic control and electronic sign notices and will also publicize the event on social media. We will also give out our reusable shopping bags. E. Paul offered to transport needed supplies from the WTEC trailer. Social distancing requirements will be observed. Members are asked to meet in the parking lot by 9:15 on May 30 to set up. P. Butenis will remind volunteers the day before the event by email.
- Federal recreational trails program: the Chair is waiting for a response to his email inquiries about this possible source of funding. He also said we would add to our monthly agenda a report from R. Casian, our Trails Ambassador.
- Hazardous waste/shredding event: the Chair reported that the hazardous waste collection and township shredding event was cancelled by the county with no plans at this point to reschedule.

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

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

**11. Comments from Membership:** the Chair will send new members the handbook on official conduct, as required and asked that all members send him their addresses and phone numbers to give to the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), per their request. He suggested the possibility of applying for an ANJEC open space stewardship grant for future work on Atco Lake. He also mentioned the petition being promoted by Pinelands Preservation Alliance regarding combatting off-road vehicle damage and suggested members look at it if interested. Some members thought the petition was requesting the federal government to close roads in the Pinelands. P. Butenis explained that the petition was directed to Gov.

Murphy and called for enforcement of existing laws to protect areas from abuse. S. Regn reported that we had already completed and submitted the recycling and tonnage report due by September 1.

12: **Adjournment:** A. Shaw made a motion to adjourn which E. Paul seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:44.

**Next proposed meeting date: Thursday, June 18 at 7:00PM via  
teleconference**