

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

1. Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM. Sunshine Rule was announced and the flag was saluted.

**Members:** Pat Butenis, Terry Ciarlante, Gabrielle DeSorte, Bob Doney, Dennis LaMagna, Ed Paul, Harleigh Pino, Art Shaw

Honorary Member: Al Campbell

Liaison: Rick Yeatman

Green Team: Craig Buffington, Richard Casian,

Roll Call: C. Buffington, P. Butenis, R. Casian, G. DeSorte, B. Doney, D. La Magna, A. Shaw, R. Yeatman

2. **Meeting open to the public:** Joe Morrison

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

4. Chairman's report: B. Doney reported that E. Paul agreed to serve as Vice Chair and P. Butenis as recording Secretary. He spoke with a wide range of people with whom the WTEC worked, to include school officials, Public Works, etc. He proposed a brief orientation session later in the month for new members with longer-serving members and asked P. Butenis to prepare a members' directory. Regarding the WTEC trailer, it needs to be serviced and the tires checked, and asked if anyone had a truck we could use to tow the trailer to our events. If not, Public Works would take care of that. D. LaMagna offered his truck. The Chair also said he and someone from Public Works had placed recycling guidelines stickers on all the bins in neighborhoods we had

missed in the first go-around. He asked that we all check in our own neighborhoods to make sure every recycling bin had a sticker.

**5. Clean Communities:** The Chair reported we had approximately \$12,000 balance in funding from last year which had to be spent by this June, before we could use the \$25,000 allocated for this year.

**6. Township Liaison:** R. Yeatman said within the next week the Township would issue a purchase order (for approximately \$4000) to remove the remaining hazardous material from the Lombardo property.

**7. Planning Board Liaison:** No report.

**8. Old Business:**

- NIXLE/OEM: The Chair will pursue this issue.

- New Maps: P. Butenis gave R. Casian a supply of trail maps for the Burnt Mill kiosk and offered to obtain more when needed. C. Buffington suggested we create a QR logo on the kiosk so people can just scan and download the map onto their phones. R. Yeatman asked that we send him a request for the QR logo to task the Township's IT person.

- Plastics recycling/single use program: the Chair updated the status of the bill banning single-use plastics and thought it would likely become law this year. A. Shaw cautioned against proposing that we pass our own resolution, given that the state would eventually mandate compliance and establish its own guidelines. G. DeSorte confirmed her role as liaison with the schools and will meet with school officials as soon as the tee shirt contest is over. In the Chair's discussion with Superintendent Dr. Brenda Haring, she mentioned that they are working on a Green Schools or Sustainable Jersey for Schools program. This will be confirmed when we next meet with Dr. Haring.

- Sustainable Jersey: this is on hold temporarily, more information at the next meeting.

## 9. **New Business:**

- Annual tee shirt drawing contest: R. Doney, G. DeSorte and D. La Magna will visit the schools on Friday to announce the contest. The deadline for submission of designs is March 2 which gives the tee shirt vendor enough time to make the shirts. We agreed that three judges were sufficient and that they would view the designs at the Chair's home, rather than having them scanned and sent via email for voting.
- Spring Clean-up: We have the Gun Club reserved for March 28. A. Shaw agreed to handle the food. We decided to move the start time up an hour, to 8:30 since last year teams finished their sections and were back at the Club well before lunch time and didn't wait for lunch so we had a lot of food left over.
- Tree seedlings program: P. Butenis confirmed she will pick up the 200 seedlings we asked for on March 27. R. Yeatman said we could plant any leftover seedlings on Township property.

10. **Pinelands Commission letters:** There was one letter regarding an application to build a house near the Pinelands but the Township Planning Board had not yet forwarded any permit application to us for review.

11. **Comments from Membership:** P. Butenis said she had obtained a supply (100) of the refrigerator magnets with the recycling guidelines, which E. Paul had mentioned at the January meeting. She said she was told that we could get more if needed. We will decide how we will distribute them, perhaps to each household or as give-aways at our public events. R. Yeatman said the Township was improving the quality of its recycling, likely due to our efforts with the stickers. However, Republic Services, our waste disposal company, sends reports on recycling loads that are too contaminated (with plastic bags, etc.) and are carted away to be disposed of as trash. Normally the Township would be fined per such load but due to litigation brought by the county against Republic, no fines are being assessed at this time. He showed a

Republic report for recycling picked up in his neighborhood (where stickers had not been distributed) which showed a lot of plastic bags mixed in with the recyclables. G. DeSorte proposed banners in high-traffic locations in the township with messages about recycling (“No plastic Bags”, etc.) which we will consider. D. La Magna asked about his status as an alternate member and R. Yeatman said he would discuss this after the meeting.

12: **Meeting Open to the Public:** J. Morrison, referring back to the discussion about trails, said the Burnt Mill/Marilyn Beard Trail was built with a grant from the Federal Recreational Trails program and that additional funds might be available.

13: **Adjournment:** C. Buffington made a motion to adjourn which A. Shaw seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:17.

**Next proposed meeting date: Thursday, March 19 at 7:00PM**