

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 17, 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, A. Shaw, R. Yeatman

Excused: R. Yeatman

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

3. **Chair's report:** The Chair said our next meeting (October) will be via Zoom. He reported that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed diverting \$10 million (50% of Clean Communities' funding) to cover unrelated executive payroll expenses. (The Clean Communities program funds anti-litter efforts by towns and is estimated to have reduced litter in New Jersey by 53%.) This move has already generated protest.

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

- Fall clean-up: the Fall clean-up proposed date is Saturday, November 7. S. Regn will contact local organizations to support the event and asked for suggestions in addition to the Clementon Gun club, the scouts and churches. She confirmed that families and individuals are also welcome, not only organizations.
- Account balance: we have about \$5000 left from our 2019 budget and suggestions for using this funding are welcome. We will also look into the

possibility of carrying over into 2020 any unspent 2019 money. Perhaps we can buy more litter pick up tools and/or refresh the WTEC trailer.

- Recycling/trash education: We will meet with Public Works to learn their plan to distribute new trash carts and information pamphlets for when the Township takes over trash collection from Republic in January. Republic will collect their old carts. Since county recycling rules appear not to have changed, we can probably use the same stickers we placed on the current trash carts but will need a new supply.

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

6. **Planning Board Liaison:** E. Paul reported that there were three applications pending involving variances for a front yard setback, insufficient frontage, and a pole barn, none of which posed any environmental commission concerns. There was no action on development plans for Haines Blvd.

7. **Trails Ambassador:** R. Casian observed that all the trails on the Marilyn Beard/Maple Island Trails were labelled and that this is a great time to see lots of deer, especially bucks. It was confirmed that the QR sign has been posted and works, that you can bring up the Wharton Forest page from DEP and then click on the Wharton State Forest area map. He also noted that there is pretty reliable cell phone service in that area so people who downloaded the map could access it. The Chair thanked everyone who worked on this project.

8. **Old Business:**

- Plastics recycling/single use program: the Chair reported that the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act bill is before an Assembly committee for a vote. (Note: The bill passed the committee and will be voted on by the Assembly on September 24. According to ANJEC, the bill would start an 18-month countdown to implement a full ban on single-use plastic bags and polystyrene foam food service products, as well as paper bags in some stores.)

- Sustainable Jersey: the Chair hoped all members are now registered and familiar with the SJ website. He will begin asking members to take responsibility for individual SJ actions within the next few weeks. He confirmed with SJ that we retain our Silver rating through 2022.

- Atlantic City Electric grant: we hope to have a decision on our application in the next two weeks.

9. New Business:

- Fishing derby: in view of the difficulty in making arrangements in such a short timeframe and the uncertainties imposed by Covid-19 requirements, the derby will be postponed until next June.
- Federal Recreational Trails program: E. Paul researched the program and reported that the state had to match a certain percentage (20-40%) of a Federal grant. New Jersey had apparently stopped providing these matching funds and we were therefore no longer receiving any funding under this program.
- WTEC social media: the Chair thanked T. Ciarlante and G. DeSorte for their work and T. Ciarlante explained the link to the WTEC now on the Township's webpage, under the Links tab. They will also start a new WTEC Facebook page, with a post on the current, outdated page directing viewers to the new one.
- Adopt a Highway program: the Chair described the three levels of roads (state, county and township) and that Clean Communities funds local anti-litter programs. C. Buffington mentioned that there are several community groups that have already adopted roads and keep them litter-free, but there are no signs noting their sponsorship. We need a list of the streets that already have been adopted and can then post signs.
- Drinking water standards: The Chair noted that all public water systems, as of the first quarter 2021, must begin monitoring for PFOA's and PFO's and all results will be made public through federally required Consumer Confidence Reports that water systems send to customers and post on websites. He said that he forwarded all the documentation to Dawn Liedtka for Public Works review.

10: Pinelands Commission letters: No notifications.

11: Meeting Open to the Public: None

12. Comments from Membership: None

13: Adjournment: A. Shaw made a motion to adjourn which G. DeSorte. Shaw seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:12.

Next proposed meeting date: Thursday, October 15 at 7:00PM via Zoom