

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 21, 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, Tom Giangliulo, Dennis LaMagna, Ed Paul, Art Shaw

Honorary Member: Al Campbell

Liaison: Mary Sura

Green Team: Richard Casian, Craig Buffington

Roll Call: P. Butenis, A. Campbell, R. Casian, D. Chiddenton, T. Chiddenton, C. Damiani, T. Giangliulo, A. Shaw, M. Sura

Excused: C. Buffington, D. LaMagna

Absent: E. Paul

2. **Meeting open to the public:** Bob Doney, who intended to apply for appointment as an alternate member of the WTEC, attended. He described his background and interest in the outdoors. The Chair welcomed Bob's interest and advised him to file the required application with the Township Clerk.

3. **Reading and approval of minutes from the last meeting:** C. Damiani moved to approve the minutes and A. Shaw seconded. Minutes were approved.

4. **Clean Communities:** T. Chiddenton said she had finished two Sustainable Jersey grants: the \$10,000 for the ERI and \$2000 to purchase more reusable tote bags, preferably made from recycled plastic bottles. She also cited a report from NJ Clean Communities Council that litter in New Jersey has decreased by 53% since 2004, to a level well below other states.

5. Report from Township Liaison: M. Sura reported that the Township's sanitation company, Republic, will present at the next Township Council meeting (February 27) on recycling guidelines and will take questions from attendees. P. Butenis shared a flyer from Atlantic County Utilities Authority on a February 27 forum on Changes in the Recycling Industry, which the Chair said he would attend. The Chair asked M. Sura to ask Berlin Borough the results of their policy of picking up recycling every two weeks instead of weekly (our practice), as a possible cost saving measure for Waterford.

6. Report from Planning Board Liaison: T. Giangiulio reported that the Planning Board did not meet last week. The car wash case is close to settlement, as DEP issued a letter stating that the soil (from the big pile on the property) contains no contaminants, although that means that there is no deadline by which the soil has to be removed. The Chair noted how fortunate the WTEC was to have Tom as our Planning Board liaison, due to his extensive experience.

7. Old Business:

- Comments on Waterford/Hammonton Green Drinks Event: the Chair noted the fantastic turnout, with an excellent WTEC representation and with members from Hammonton, Monroe Township, and ANJEC. It wasn't clear where the next Green Drinks would be held. T. Chiddenton mentioned that ANJEC's Cheryl Reardon encouraged us to apply for a grant under the Open Space category and we may consider installing a rain garden in one of the retention basins.

- T-shirt contest: T. Chiddenton reported that drawing submissions were due next Friday from the schools. She will likely send the designs to WTEC members for judging via email, as that worked well last year. She is also checking pricing for the T-shirts. As decided previously the T-shirts will be red.

- Shredding event: the Chair signed the contract with Pro Shred for Saturday, May 18, 10-12:00PM. The venue will again be the Municipal building parking lot. We reviewed ways to publicize the event: the electronic sign board on the Pike, social media, and signs in the Municipal building. Hazardous waste disposal will be offered the same day, at the parking lot at Raritan and Atco Avenues.

8. New Business:

- Summer Sizzler: Spring Fling is now (unofficially named) Summer Sizzler to be held on the same day as the car show in the summer, date to be determined and probably noon-late afternoon.

- Alternate vacancy: As discussed earlier in the meeting, Bob Doney will volunteer for the vacancy.

9. Sustainable Jersey Action Update: The Chair distributed an action status report, reminding the members that if all the listed actions were completed by June, we would have 380 points, which gives us 30 points leeway for the 350 points required to receive our second Silver certification.

10: Pinelands letters: none received.

11. Comments from Membership: the Chair reported on his invited presentation in SJ's recent webinar on attaining Silver status and that he and C. Damiani had been asked by SJ to speak sometime in June about our successful Firewise Community campaign. The Chair referred to the update previously distributed by Owens Corning on their remediation efforts, noting that the company had stepped up and taken action.

M. Sura asked if Waterford could participate in the annual Wreaths Across America event in December in which volunteers place wreaths on the graves in Arlington National Ceremony and other veterans' cemeteries. A. Campbell mentioned our five local cemeteries in which soldiers are buried, some of which are not well-maintained. The War Memorial Committee could help identify the veterans. WTEC will follow up with looking into honoring those buried in our local cemeteries.

C. Damiani asked about the status of dredging Atco Lake and M. Sura explained that after one day of lily pad removal, the machine went back to its on-going work at Newton Creek. Bottom line: Atco Lake would not be dredged this year.

T. Giangiulio referred back to the issue of recycling and said that the township earns money from the recycling that businesses produce in Waterford. The Chair explained that not all of our businesses, especially landscape and tree trimming companies, report to the township the recycling they put out, something required

by state law, and that means the township is missing out on revenue. He referred to a township business directory and we discussed the possibility of contacting each business regarding their recycling output. B. Doney offered to contact the businesses in the directory regarding their recycling output, when we decide to take action. Republic, the Township's waste disposal contactor, does file the tonnage reports but it's the businesses with their own dumpsters and pick-up that are not reporting. We resolved to first look at measuring the township's in-house collection with Public Works.

T. Chiddenton reported that we have agreed to participate in the DEP's South Jersey Scrub campaign (April 6-14), as invited by our Watershed Ambassador Naomi Jainarine. We are assigned Chew Road (date/time TBD) but specified that we will focus on the Waterford Township segment of Chew Road, beginning at Myer's auto wrecking yard. The Tri-County meeting Terri attended was excellent, with lots of good ideas, movies available on various topics, etc. The next meeting is in March. There will also be a Green Fair in Cherry Hill on May 4 in which we may participate.

The Chair passed out copies of Waterford Township's "Handbook for elected officials, appointed officials and volunteers", and asked that we read it and return the signed Receipt of Handbook at the next WTEC meeting.

12. Meeting open to the public: B. Doney promised to submit the application for WTEC alternate membership ASAP.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.

Next proposed meeting date: Thursday, March 21 at 7:00PM