

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:01 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, Art Shaw

Liaison: Rick Yeatman

Green Team: Craig Buffington, Richard Casian,

Roll Call: C. Buffington, P. Butenis, R. Casian, G. DeSorte, B. Doney, E. Paul, H. Pino, A. Shaw, R. Yeatman

Excused: T. Ciarlante

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

3. **Chair's report:** S. Regn resigned as Clean Communities coordinator and as a member of the WTEC, effective November 1, 2020. T. Ciarlante is the new CC coordinator, having completed the training and been approved by the Township Council. We deeply appreciate her willingness to assume this responsibility. We are searching for a new WTEC member who would serve as alternate #2 and have a recommendation from the Mayor.

There was a discussion of the spotted lanternfly threat with several members reporting sightings on their properties even though as the Mayor noted, Waterford Township was not on the list of communities asked to report sightings to the state. T. Ciarlante will be asked to post on our web page information on how to kill it, with links to relevant county and NJ state sites.

<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/spottedlanternfly.html>

<https://www.camdencounty.com/service/mosquito-commission/spotted-lanternfly-information/>

4. **Clean Communities:** No report

5. **Township Liaison:** The Mayor reported that the Township has applied for a \$2000 grant to purchase **radon testing kits**. This would buy 13 kits and the Township Council will discuss at the next meeting how the kits would be distributed; i.e., on a first-come, first served basis, or taking into account household income, etc. It was pointed out that the normal amount of radon that typically accumulates in basements can be dispersed by opening a window. Camden County Parks Director Maggie McCann has accepted many elements of the Township's plan for upgrades to **Atco Lake**, including a swing gate and benches. On December 7 they will clear remaining brush to finish the walking trail. We expect they will initially use herbicide to remove the water lilies, with dredging as a later, longer term solution. We will soon provide to the Department of Environmental Protection and the Pinelands Commission the updates to the new version of our **storm water plan**, as requested. We are waiting for more information on the **drinking water standards** from Environmental Solutions, Inc.

On the **Wade Salvage fire**, the Mayor reported that the fire was under the unprocessed wood piles. The Waterford Township fire department responded and thought they had extinguished the fire, but it continued to smolder and then erupted again. Fire fighters from several neighboring townships then responded. A vehicular accident knocked down a telephone pole, which interrupted the control system for our water tower, leaving the firefighters without sufficient water. A decision was made to use water from Archway School's adjacent lake. An undetermined amount of water used to fight the fire drained back into the lake. After the fire was extinguished it was noted there was a die-off of some fish in the lake. Water and air samples were taken for analysis by County technicians in an attempt to determine if any pollution was present. The township is investigating how the fire started and measures needed to prevent a similar occurrence. Members said they expected the Township's report to be thorough and fully available to the public, which the Mayor said was his hope.

On the complaint from a Collins Avenue resident about vehicles using the road labelled "No outlet" near her property to access the forest and asking for a **barrier**

blocking the road, the Mayor has requested an official map of the road boundaries to determine what type of road and whose responsibility it was. Members commented that “no outlet” does not mean no access, that it’s likely the major offenders are teenagers who could be set straight, that the road in question has been considered an unimproved road open to jeeps for a long time. One solution was to ask the state to repair the deep ruts on the road that collect water. The Chair proposed drafting a letter, cleared by the Mayor to appropriate authorities with our suggestions. However, a member cautioned against taking on issues that are not really in our purview.

The Mayor provided an update on the **transition to Township trash/recycling collection** on January 1, 2021. The trucks are here, the drivers have been trained, and trash bins will arrive in four batches. The Township Committee is discussing videos guiding residents on proper recycling practices and we would still like to put stickers on each recycling bin with those guidelines.

The Mayor reported that the **Township election results** will be released by noon on Friday, with Tom Giangliulo elected and himself re-elected. Rita Hanna was not re-elected but would be asked to continue her work on the Township’s strategic plan. G. DeSorte offered congratulations to the Mayor for his re-election and thanks for his support of the WTEC’s work, seconded by the other members.

6. Planning Board Liaison: E. Paul reported that there was no meeting but the Board is considering the possibility of a Mexican restaurant taking over the Jam’s pizza site. The only concern is traffic/parking issues.

7. Trails Ambassador: R. Casian: nothing to report.

8. Old Business:

- Plastics recycling legislation: the Chair reported that the Governor had signed the legislation, the strictest in the nation.

- Sustainable Jersey: the Chair reported that not all WTEC members are willing to work on SJ actions and that he, E. Paul and P. Butenis will meet to discuss next steps. The Mayor commented that perhaps this cycle a Bronze rating might be more realistic than trying to maintain our current Silver rating. He also said he would look into additional resources for the SJ effort.

- Web page: the Mayor said the revised Township web page with a better link to the WTEC page, will be up soon. A. Shaw has volunteered to help T. Ciarlante transfer photos posted on the current WTEC Facebook page to our new one.
- Girl Scout bat houses: G. DeSorte said that the Girl Scouts had built and erected eight bat houses, two on Tapper field and six on Burnt Mill. They would like to make a full report to the WTEC as well as hand over a traveling educational kit about bats for our use at public events. The Scouts are developing an informational brochure which G. DeSorte and P. Butenis will review. We will invite them to our December meeting which will be via Zoom so they can make their presentation.

9. New Business:

- Adopt a road/street program/litter management: the Chair said he continued to develop a program to enlist residents to keep their own streets litter-free. He drove through the town and found very little litter and on a scale of 1-10, he would rate the township at 9 or 9.5 (very little litter). P. Butenis disagreed and mentioned several streets that consistently have a lot of trash, such as Atlantic Avenue and Bartram. Someone also mentioned the Old White Horse Pike beginning at the Senior Center. The Chair conceded that there were some “hot spots”.

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 E. Paul seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:26.

Next proposed meeting date: Thursday, December 17 at 7:00PM via Zoom