

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)  
MINUTES – OCTOBER 15, 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 held virtually via “Zoom”. The Sunshine Rule was announced and the Pledge of Allegiance recited. The meeting was chaired by Vice Chair E. Paul.

**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, G. DeSorte, E. Paul, A. Shaw, R. Yeatman

Excused: R. Doney

Absent: R. Casian

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

3. **Chair’s report:** The Vice Chair reported that the decision in Trenton to divert Clean Communities funding has been reversed.

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

- Fall clean-up: arrangements for the proposed November 7 clean-up have not yet been made. An alternate date of November 21 was rejected due to winter weather and approaching holidays. We reviewed the need to contact the organizations that normally participate and to reserve the Clementon Gun Club as the venue. In view of Covid concerns, bags of chips and canned drinks would be offered to volunteers instead of the usual pizza and hoagies. We also considered limiting participation to the WTEC and the Boy and Girl Scouts, since those groups were already aware of the November 7 date. Stacia will contact the Gun Club to

see if it's available. We decided that if it is not available on November 7 or we do not have an answer from the Club by Monday (October 19), we would cancel the event.

- Account balance: no change since last month.
- Recycling/trash education: Stacia is talking with Public Works about an education campaign, including a brochure, for residents when we switch to Township pick up of trash and recycling in January. (She welcomed suggestions for the brochure.) Our plan to attach new recycling guideline stickers to the new trash bins before they are distributed won't be possible since there isn't enough room at PW to store them before distribution and attaching the stickers in January, house by house, as we did last time, may not work due to weather.

**5. Township Liaison:** The Mayor said the Township will give the County a plan for additional upgrades to Atco Lake (e.g., a floating boat ramp) but it's the county's decision to implement and fund our proposal. An immediate need is to eliminate the water lilies that are clogging the lake; non-toxic chemicals are under consideration, as well as dredging. The effectiveness of the dam was also raised. The Mayor also reported that they had obtained five bike racks for installation at our athletic fields and parks. He mentioned that the Atco Race Track bid remains with the Pinelands Commission for approval.

**6. Planning Board Liaison:** There was no meeting.

**7. Trails Ambassador:** No report.

**8. Old Business:**

- Plastics recycling/single use program: the Vice Chair said it wasn't clear if the Plastic Pollution Control Act had been signed by Governor Murphy yet.
- Sustainable Jersey: P. Butenis said that a draft Green purchasing Policy and resolution adopting the policy were with the Mayor for review before submission to the Township Council. For another action, she confirmed that the Township continues to purchase 30% post consumer recycled content copier paper.
- Atlantic City Electric grant: the Vice Chair reported that our application for a \$5000 grant for a feasibility study for a bike trail was approved.

**9. New Business:**

- Federal Recreational Trails program: the Vice Chair said there was no further information about the possibility of Trenton participating again in the program.
- WTEC social media: T. Ciarlante described her on-going efforts to transfer the photos, beginning from 2014, from the old Facebook page to our new one. This is a very time-consuming project but she is making progress.
- Adopt a Highway program: there was a general discussion of litter and the need to see how other towns address it. The Chair has spoken with Dr. Hanna about creating a program to enlist neighborhoods in assuming responsibility for litter-free streets, with the Township providing supplies, posting signs recognizing participants, and possible tax breaks.
- Drinking water standards: Public Works is engaging in meeting this requirement.
- Girl Scouts' bat house project: the Girl Scouts of Troop 30090 asked for WTEC support in building bat houses which is the project they have chosen to gain the Silver Award, the highest award a Cadette can achieve. P. Butenis made a motion to support the project, A. Shaw seconded it and the motion was approved unanimously. P. Butenis and G. DeSorte volunteered to help and will be in contact with the Scouts for details.

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

**11: Meeting Open to the Public:** Girl Scouts Raina Sherman and Kelsey Besser, with Christine Besser

**12. Comments from Membership:** None

**13: Adjournment:** A. Shaw made a motion to adjourn which G. DeSorte seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:59.

**Next proposed meeting date: Thursday, November 19 at 7:00PM via Zoom**