

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)  
MINUTES – DECEMBER 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 virtually by “Zoom” and publicized as such. The Sunshine Rule was announced and the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

**Members:** Kelly Andrews, Pat Butenis, Terry Ciarlante, Gabrielle DeSorte, Ed Paul, Harleigh Pino, Art Shaw

Liaison: Rick Yeatman

Green Team: Craig Buffington, Richard Casian,

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

Absent: T. Ciarlante

2. The Mayor introduced new WTEC member Kelly Andrews whose appointment was approved by the Township Committee.

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

4. **Open to the public:** Girl Scouts Kelsey Besser and Raina Sherman reported (using screen share slides) on their successful construction and installation of eight bat houses at Burnt Mill park and Tapper field. They also submitted a draft brochure and trivia game about bats for P. Butenis and G. DeSorte’s comments. The Scouts will donate an educational display on the importance of bats to the WTEC for our use at community events. E. Paul invited them to attend our events in person and present to the public. Members congratulated the Scouts on their work and successful completion of the Silver Award requirements.

5. **Acting Chair's report:** Given B. Doney's resignation from the WTEC, Vice Chair E. Paul will serve as acting Chair until a new Chair is appointed. Members were asked for any suggestions.

6. **Clean Communities:** No report but the Mayor asked about payments due to the Girl Scouts and Loudon fire company for earlier litter clean-ups. He followed up on a request that the Waterford Township Democrats be paid for picking up litter from its segment of Jackson road, for which it has received money in the past from Clean Communities. Previous Chair Doney was told that the funds should come from the county although the county requires that an organization maintain a two mile segment to qualify. It was agreed to defer resolution of this issue until the next meeting when we had more information.

7. **Township Liaison:** The Mayor reported that the **new trash and litter carts** would soon be distributed and would look into placing the recycling guideline stickers on them at some point. It was suggested that the guidelines handout be posted on the Township website. The **bike trail study** funded by the Atlantic City Electric grant is still in the engineering phase. We are waiting for the county to proceed with agreed to upgrades for **Atco lake**. The Pinelands Commission is updating its Comprehensive Management Plan for the Pinelands for **wells and septic systems**. They accepted three out of five proposed pilot systems for homeowners and also reduced the required acreage from 3.2 to one acre, which will allow for more construction. The Mayor praised public works for **clearing the streets** during the recent snowfall without using too much salt which can enter the water supply.

The Pinelands Commission approved the application for the **Atco Dragway** and it may be on the planning board's agenda this week, although it will likely require a few meetings to take action on the application. Some local residents continue to lobby against the sale but it's a private sale and the Township has no authority to deny a completed application because we may not like the type of business. The Mayor confirmed that the application has met the Pinelands Commission objections and the approval is no longer "inconsistent". However, the Township will need to make sure that the new business will not cause any environmental damage, for example, from leaking automobile fluids. On the **Wade chip yard fire**, the Mayor referred to the public works report on the event which he had already provided to the WTEC. The air quality tests indicated no cause for concern and they are still waiting for the water quality tests. Relevant county agencies are still

arranging to meet to review the conditions at the chip yard which led to the fire and Councilman Wade is already taking steps to prevent another fire. On the 13 **radon testing kits** the Township will acquire, we decided to post their availability on the Township webpage, with first come first serve, as opposed to a lottery or a means test. On the complaint from a **Collins Avenue** resident about vehicles using the road near her property to access the forest, the Mayor suggested posting a Quiet Zone sign. Someone pointed out that “quiet” can mean different things to people and that perhaps a sign indicating horses present might cut down on loud noise. The Mayor will discuss options with the Township police.

8. **Planning Board Liaison:** E. Paul reported that there was nothing of direct environmental interest from the meeting. P. Butenis said she hoped the planning board was aware of the need for new construction to use green infrastructure to manage storm water runoff, especially when considering the amount of impervious surface planned. E. Paul confirmed that was the case.

9. **Trails Ambassador:** R. Casian reported he had updated trail markers and noted there were more people out hiking and walking the trails than before.

10. **Old Business:** Nothing to report.

11. **New Business:** Nothing to report

12: **Pinelands Commission letters:** The notification about approval of the Atco Dragway application was already discussed in the Mayor’s report.

13: **Meeting Open to the Public:** None

14. **Comments from Membership:** None

15: **Adjournment:** A. Shaw made a motion to adjourn which K. Andrews seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:27.

**Next proposed meeting date: January 21, 2021**