

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)
MINUTES – JANUARY 21, 2021**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:22 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, Mike Ward

Liaison: Rick Yeatman

Green Team: Craig Buffington, Richard Casian,

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

Absent: H. Pino

2. R. Yeatman introduced new WTEC member Mike Ward whose appointment was approved by the Township Committee.

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

4. **Open to the public:** None present.

5. **Acting Chair’s report:** E. Paul expressed the hope that the WTEC could stage some public events this year than were possible last year. He also stated his intent to focus more on the Sustainable Jersey program and asked members to volunteer to help.

6. **Clean Communities:** T. Ciarlante reported that she requested Township staff assistance in reviewing the **financial records** she received when she assumed the Clean Communities position and that there is no documentation later than 2019. R. Yeatman volunteered to assist her in the review and determination of the

current balance of funds in our account. On **trash/recycling collection guidelines**, she said that Township Clerk D. Liedtka posts current information on the Township Facebook pages.

7. **Township Liaison:** R. Yeatman reported that New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection is offering Waterford 60 **free gross alpha (a measurement of radioactivity) testing kits for private wells**. We will post a flyer on our social media sites with the information. We decided that the first 50 kits would be offered on a first come-first serve basis. We will keep 10 kits to offer to households which have not applied which are in neighborhoods not represented in the first kit distribution. We are waiting for a proposal from the engineers for the **safe bike path** and for a cost estimate from the engineers to remedy the **flooding of the Burnt Mill** park athletic fields. We are planning construction of a **skateboard park** on Township land at Fernwood and Lincoln. It would be unsupervised and there was discussion of liability concerns.

8. **Land Use Board Liaison:** M. Ward, a member of the newly renamed land use board (no longer planning board) provided an update on the **Atco Dragway** application. It was on the agenda for the January 20 meeting but there were more people wishing to attend the zoom meeting than the 100 zoom slots available, so the meeting has been rescheduled for February 17, with 500 zoom slots. Mike thought it would require a few sessions to reach the point of consideration by the board. The applicant has an "inconsistent certificate of filing" from the Pinelands Commission and apparently has not yet satisfied the requirements for full clearance yet they submitted the application to the Township for approval. (NOTE: P. Butenis mentioned her position as chair of the board of trustees for Pinelands Preservation Alliance, which submitted a letter to the land use board commenting on the application; E. Paul mentioned his position as attorney for the seller in other legal matters. Neither participated in the discussion, to avoid any potential conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict of interest).

9. **Trails Ambassador:** R. Casian reported a continued higher volume of people using the trails. One hiker praised the trail markers he had placed and maintains.

10. **Old Business:** T. Ciarlante welcomed the offer of help from A. Shaw and K. Andrews to transfer photos from the old **WTEC Facebook** page to the new one. She also provided the new email address for the WTEC: WTEC@mail.com. However,

we need to determine who would monitor the address and respond to public inquiries. R. Yeatman said they were waiting for the engineers' report on meeting the drinking water standards. On the Wade **wood chip fire**, he said the various agencies were still arranging to meet to determine measures to prevent a similar occurrence but in the interim, A. Wade has moved the chip piles further away from the road.

11. **New Business:** We discussed three possible events in the spring, pandemic conditions permitting. We will plan to hold a spring clean-up on Saturday, April 17, staging from the Clementon Gun Club as usual. On the following Saturday, April 24 we will participate in the War Memorial Committee/American Legion's event (also celebrating Earth Day) and will distribute tree seedlings from the New Jersey Tree Recovery Program. We also hope to hold a community shredding event. K. Andrews volunteered to design any flyers required for these events.

12: **Pinelands Commission letters:** None

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

14. **Comments from Membership:** None

15: **Adjournment:** A. Shaw made a motion to adjourn which T. Ciarlante seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:43.

Next proposed meeting date: February 18, 2021