

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)**  
**MINUTES – JULY 15, 2021**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. This meeting was held in the Senior Center, with several members participating virtually via zoom. 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, T. Ciarlante, G. DeSorte, E. Paul, A. Shaw, M. Ward, R. Yeatman

Excused: H. Pino

2. **Minutes from June meeting:** P. Butenis moved to approve the minutes, E. Paul seconded. Minutes were approved.

3. **Open to the public:** NA

4. **Chair's report:** Nothing specific to report.

5. **Clean Communities:** T. Ciarlante reported that our Clean Communities **balance** of funds was \$26, 776.76. The organizations which participated in our spring clean-up have not yet been paid but R. Yeatman said the checks would soon be authorized. Also, more "likes" for our **Facebook page**.

6. **Township Liaison:** R. Yeatman reported that the first round of water samples from **Haines Blvd.** came back clean. If the second round of tests are also clean, we will get off the DEP list, allowing water and sewer infrastructure to be installed. (The concern is contamination from chemicals and a trash dump). On the **well water testing** project, there are issues with the testing lab. The county will continue spraying for **mosquitoes** through next week.

7. **Land Use Board Liaison:** M. Ward reported that the board's next meeting on July 19 on the **Atco Dragway** would give the public an opportunity to comment. A continuing issue is the Township code which requires that vehicles stored beyond a certain number of days must be drained of liquids which was contrary to Insurance Auto Auctions' proposal. The Chair reminded everyone that previously the environmental commission had **reviewed applications** from the land use board before they were voted on, giving us an opportunity to comment on any environmental concerns. This is a standard and recommended best practice for environmental commissions. He said he would reconstitute a sub-committee to review the applications (likely himself, M. Ward and any other interested WTEC member.)

8. **Trails Ambassador:** R. Casian reported that the flies continue to no doubt discourage visitors to the Burnt Mill trails but the wild blueberries were the best he has ever seen.

9. **Current Business:** P. Butenis reviewed plans for the Atco Lake clean-up on August 7. Our flyer has been posted on our Facebook page and on the township's Facebook page. C. Buffington has sent the flyer to the Scouts and other organizations. Michael Hogan of South Jersey Land and Water Trust asked if police coverage could be provided and the Chair will make that request. He will also ask that the clean-up be posted on the electronic sign board across from the fire station.

10. **New business:** We chose October 2 (rain date October 9) for the **fall clean-up** and will confirm with the Clementon Gun Club as the venue again. Members were asked to bring suggestions for our **scarecrow display on Atco Avenue for Halloween** to the next meeting. **Winter on the Avenue** will be on December 4.

11. **Pinelands Commission letters:** None

12: **Meeting Open to the Public:** NA

13. **Comments from Membership:** R. Casian said he thought the WTEC should have made a recommendation to the Land Use Board on the **Atco Dragway** application, given the significant environmental concerns. We agreed that that

would have been appropriate, but since several organizations opposing the application had made those environmental arguments already, we would not have added anything new to the argument. The Chair also pointed out that several WTEC members would have had to recuse themselves from taking a position, due to conflicts of interest. It was also pretty late in the process to weigh in now. R. Yeatman reported that the **White Horse Pike** (Route 30) would be undergoing “reconstruction” next year, from Atco Avenue to Route 206.

14: **Adjournment:** G. DeSorte made a motion to adjourn, K. Andrews seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:46.

**Next proposed meeting date: August 19, 2021**