**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)**

**MINUTES – MARCH 18, 2021**

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, Mike Ward

Liaison: Rick Yeatman

Green Team: Craig Buffington, Richard Casian,

Roll Call: K. Andrews, C. Buffington, P. Butenis, E. Paul, H. Pino, A. Shaw, M. Ward, R. Yeatman

Excused: G. DeSorte

Absent: T. Ciarlante

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

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

4. **Acting Chair’s report:** E. Paul reported that the Township Council passed the Green team resolution. He checked the supplies in the WTEC trailer and we need more PPE (masks and gloves), litter pickers and Lysol wipes. R. Yeatman noted that the Police Chief could loan some PPE if need be.

5. **Clean Communities:** E. Paul will check with T. Ciarlante if our Clean Communities funds for 2021 have arrived yet since we will have expenses with our April events.

6.  **Township Liaison:** R. Yeatman reminded us that under current Covid restrictions, outdoor events are limited to 50 people and that the War Memorial Committee is aware of this limit for the **April 24 event**. He suggested we keep WTEC staffing to a minimum. We decided to limit our activities to handing out the tree seedlings and to reduce our seedling order to 150. We set up the duty roster as follows: 11:30AM – 2:00PM, P. Butenis and K. Andrews; 2:00-4:00, M. Ward and R. Casian. For the **April 17 spring clean-up**, we will provide hoagies to the volunteers to grab and go. On the **well water testing**, the Township now has a list of households with school age children which have received a letter explaining the free testing program. The state has hired a private lab to conduct the actual testing at the homes. Fifty applicants will be selected and the township will keep ten test kits for testing households in areas of concern that are not represented in the applicant pool. The **shredding event** is on May 8, the same day the county will **collect hazmat.**  **Tractor Supply** will build a store at the intersection of Hopewell and Jackson Roads, and while this is in Berlin Township, the increased economic activity is good for the general area.

The **Atco Lake** upgrades are still planned. The gate the county installed has to be relocated to the correct spot and benches are next. The remaining improvements are pending county approval of the budget. Commissioner Jeffrey Nash asked for volunteers for a steering committee to plan further development of Atco Lake. M. Ward said several people have asked for a **bike path connecting Haines Boulevard to Ritter Field**, along the railroad tracks. The engineers continue to work on the feasibility study for the **bike path already approved** on the Old White Horse Pike.

7. **Land Use Board Liaison:**  M. Ward reported that the last meeting on the **Atco Dragway** heard four hours of testimony and that several more hearings will likely be needed. A special meeting is scheduled for March 29 and followed by the next regularly scheduled session on April 5. Other, routine applications remain pending and a separate, special session might be held to clear those. R. Yeatman noted that the category of activity for the auto auction company may be exempted from many DEP/environmental requirements, such as a storm water management plan.

8. **Trails Ambassador:** R. Casian reported that the trail markers are in good shape but that there is a lot of trash, probably due to the fact that we haven’t been able to have the usual clean-ups. He noted a new site where construction debris had been dumped, at Burnt Mill. The possibility of obtaining grants to create new trails was raised and Rich agreed to consider possibilities.

9. **New Business:** E. Paul advised that we would have to look at holding the fishing derby (June 5) in light of likely continuing Covid restrictions.

10: **Pinelands Commission letters:** None

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

12. **Comments from Membership:**  A. Shaw raised the issue of who was responsible for responding to **inquiries on our Facebook page**. It was suggested that we rotate duty, perhaps a week at a time. However, for the time being Art offered to respond to those inquiries. M. Ward noted that the **deer population** was causing a lot of economic damage on area farms.

13: **Adjournment:** A. Shaw made a motion to adjourn, M. Ward seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:00.

**Next proposed meeting date: April 15, 2021**