**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)**

**MINUTES – MAY 20, 2021**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:03 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: C. Buffington, P. Butenis, R. Casian, T. Ciarlante, E. Paul, H. Pino, A. Shaw, R. Yeatman

Excused: K. Andrews, G. DeSorte

Absent: M. Ward

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

3. **Open to the public:** Bob Doney attended, bringing donations from local merchants he had obtained for the fishing derby. The chair thanked him for his support of the derby.

4. **Chair’s report:** We continued the discussion of the **fishing derby. A discussion of the donations received from sponsors and the purchase of additional prizes for tournament ensued.** R. Yeatman reporting that the police will offer free hot dogs at the event. The chair asked him to thank police Chief Cormany for their support. The **shredding event** was a success, with 75 residents producing 3450 pounds of shredded material.

5. **Clean Communities:** T. Ciarlante reported that our Clean Communities balance of funds was $27,015.50.

6.  **Township Liaison:** R. Yeatman reported that the next meeting of the **Friends of Atco Lake** will be on Saturday, May 29 at 1:00PM. This will be the last opportunity for the public to offer input for further improvements, after which the Township’s final list of recommendations will be sent to Commissioner Nash.

7. **Land Use Board Liaison:**  Mike Ward was absent and was unable to present a report. The Chair asked Mr. Yeatman about the progress. R. Yeatman said that he cannot provide an update on the **Atco Dragway** application since the case is still pending. He did confirm that another hearing was scheduled for June 7, 2021

8. **Trails Ambassador:** R. Casian reported that stockpiles of gravel were placed on Burnt Mill Road which appeared to be in preparation to improve the condition of Burnt Mill. He also reported that he rescued an apparently **injured owl** and took it to Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge (at his own expense) but has not yet received an update on the owl’s condition. He was also successful in having the All Trails app reclassify the **Burnt Mill trail** as “easy” instead of its previous “difficult” rating.

9. **New Business:** P. Butenis confirmed a South Jersey Land and Water Trust **cleanup of Atco Lake** on Saturday, August 7, 10-1, led by Michael Hogan. He will provide supplies, the county will remove the trash, and asked the WTEC to advertise the event to attract volunteers. There may also be an activity afterwards focused on environmental or ecological features. SJLWT had no objection to our using Clean Communities funds to pay members of non-profit organizations that participate in the cleanup. R. Yeatman advised confirming this with Jack Sworaski, Camden County Director of Environmental Affairs, since Atco Lake belongs to the county.

We discussed the legislation pending in the NJ legislature mandating unfunded **forest stewardship plans**, which environmental organizations are opposing as designed to facilitate logging. Mayor Wade received a letter from the group asking that the township pass a resolution against the bills and other wise voice its opposition. We agreed that the Environmental Commission would recommend to the mayor that the Town Council pass a resolution. P. Butenis will draft the letter for the Chair’s signature and R. Yeatman would put the issue on the agenda for the next town council meeting.

10: **Pinelands Commission letters:** None

11: **Meeting Open to the Public:** No comments

12. **Comments from Membership:**  None

13: **Adjournment:** T. Ciarlante made a motion to adjourn, A. Shaw seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:47.

**Next proposed meeting date: June 17, 2021**