**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)**

**MINUTES – AUGUST 19, 2021**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:01 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, G. DeSorte, E. Paul, H. Pino

Excused: K. Andrews, R. Yeatman

Absent: A. Shaw, M. Ward

2. M**inutes from June meeting:** G. DeSorte moved to approve the minutes, P. Butenis seconded. Minutes were approved.

3. **Open to the public:** Bob Doney commented that Atco Lake can’t really be fished because of the lily pads choking the water. He suggested the Township consider applying non-toxic chemicals to kill the lily pads, as an interim measure while we wait for the county to dredge the lake.

4. **Chair’s report:** The Chair thanked everyone for participating in the Atco Lake cleanup. G. DeSorte mentioned that one participant was doing court-ordered community service and suggested we advertise our October fall cleanup to people with a similar requirement.

5. **Clean Communities:** T. Ciarlante reported that our Clean Communities **balance** of funds was $26, 709.76. The organizations which participated in our spring clean-up have been paid. It was confirmed that we can use Clean Communities funds to paint the WTEC trailer. We also had 588 visits to our **Facebook page**.

6.  **Township Liaison:** No report.

7. **Land Use Board Liaison:**  No report but an observation that the Township was waiting to see if Insurance Auto Auctions will appeal the Township’s decision to reject their application to buy the Atco Dragway.

8. **Trails Ambassador:** Nothing specific to report. P. Butenis said that New Jersey was again participating in the Federal Recreational Trails Grant program and that she had forwarded the DEP page with the information to R. Casian. DEP is preparing application packets and we are on the list to get one. According to DEP, permissible uses and projects include: maintenance and restoration of existing trails; development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for trails (e.g., parking, signage, shelters, sanitary facilities); purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment; construction of new trails in existing parks or in new right of way; for motorized use only, acquisition of easement and fee simple title to property for trails.

9. **New business:** Michael Hogan of South Jersey Land and Water Trust has proposed **April 2** or April 9, 2022 for our next **joint cleanup**. We chose April 2 and will decide later whether the focus will be Atco Lake again or another site. We will host our own **Spring Cleanup on April 9**. We reviewed preparations for our **October 2 Fall Cleanup**, with T. Ciarlante talking with Stacia Regn about ordering supplies. C. Buffington confirmed Clementon Gun Club as our venue. K. Andrews will create flyers for social media posting. We will provide lunch. The **Halloween scarecrow contest** will run the month of October. P. Butenis suggested a scarecrow in bathing trunks and sunglasses under the caption “What climate Change?”. We deferred discussion about **Winter on the Avenue (December 4)** until next month.

10. **Pinelands Commission letters:** The Chair reported the Pinelands Commission letter regarding the soccer games permitted on the Tuckahoe Turf farm property, with no action required.

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

12. **Comments from Membership:**  None

13: **Adjournment:** G. DeSorte made a motion to adjourn, T. Ciarlante seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:35.

**Next proposed meeting date: September 16, 2021**