**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)**

**MINUTES – OCTOBER 21, 2021**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM. This meeting was held in the Senior Center. 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: P. Butenis, R. Casian, T. Ciarlante, G. DeSorte, E. Paul, A. Shaw, M. Ward

Excused: K. Andrews, C. Buffington, H. Pino, R. Yeatman

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

3. **Open to Public:** B. Doney

4.  **Chair’s report:** The fall cleanup went well but we need a way to find out what other township events are planned so we don’t conflict with other groups. M. Ward reported that Township Committee member Howard Wilson is working on a community calendar to avoid these scheduling conflicts.

5. **Clean Communities:** T. Ciarlante reported that our 2020 balance is $12,043.93 and the 2021 balance is $20,072.87. We discussed possible expenditures: painting and repairing the WTEC trailer, with one estimate at $5400. We decided to purchase the following supplies: 500 reusable shopping bags, 100 water bottles, tee shirts (24XXL, 48XL, 48L, 24M, 24S; youth: 36L, 36M); hats, 72 trash grabbers, nitrile gloves: 1 doz. XL, 1 doz, L; several pairs of gardening/work gloves. B. Doney said all previous ordering information was in the Clean Communities files he passed on.

6. **Township liaison:** P. Butenis read R. Yeatman’s report from an email he sent: The results of the last round of soil lab tests on the **Lombardo property** are due back soon. If they pass the township should be able to close out the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s file on this property. R. Yeatman met with the county engineer and the Parks director on **Atco Lake** last week. They agreed to work on completing eight+ items from our wish list within the next calendar year. Solar lighting along the Rte. 30 shoreline will be the first to be completed. Vegetation clearing along the shoreline will be done next spring.

7. **Land Use board liaison**: M. Ward reported on the issues confronting many New Jersey townships regarding disposal of their recycling. Our recycling contract expires in April and the cost of renewal will be significantly higher. The problem is twofold. Our recycling loads are contaminated with non-recyclable materials and much of our recycling ends up in the incinerator along with the trash. Even if we were able to sort our recyclables correctly, there is a very limited domestic market and no overseas demand for them.

8. **Trails ambassador**: nothing to report.

9. **Current Business**: We decided not to participate in this year’s Trunk or Treat.

10. **New Business**: T. Ciarlante and G. DeSorte, who presented their **“Adopt-a-Lake”** pilot program at our last meeting, asked about seeking Township approval to submit it to the County. The Chair advised them to send the proposal to R. Yeatman with the endorsement of the Environmental Commission. We discussed our participation in **Winter on the Avenue** (December 2) and suggested that everyone sign up for a two hour shift, so no one would be there all night. We will have our trivia wheel game with prizes, giveaways like our reusable shopping bags, tee shirts and water bottles, and informational handouts. P. Butenis will review what handouts we have in the trailer and update them as needed.

11. **Pinelands Commission notifications**: the Chair had received a few but nothing for our action.

12. **Comments from the public:** None

13. **Comments from members**: someone asked about installing Adopt a Road signs and was referred to Public Works.

14: **Adjournment:** G. DeSorte moved to adjourn and M. Ward seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:16PM.

**Next proposed meeting date: October 21, 2021**