**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)**

**MINUTES – NOVEMBER 18, 2021**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM. This meeting was held in the Senior Center and 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, A. Shaw, R. Yeatman

Excused: M. Ward

Absent: K. Andrews

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

3. **Open to Public:** B. Doney asked if the township will be responsible for enforcing the upcoming ban on plastic straws and plastic bag. The guidance from the Department of Environmental Protection is unclear and the township is seeking clarification from the county. In the interim, R. Yeatman said that if we notice a business not in compliance, we should notify him

4.  **Chair’s report:** The chair advised that he will likely be unable to continue as chair next year because of a probable conflict of interest with clients. He asked members to consider a successor and to think about goals for the commission for the next year.

5. **Clean Communities:** T. Ciarlante reported that our 2020 balance is $12,043.93 and the 2021 balance is $19,048.43. She ordered supplies, to include tee shirts, hats, visors, pens, reusable shopping bags, water bottles as well as PPE, a hand truck and plastic bins. (The bill for the supplies is approximately $6000 and has not yet been paid out of our account balance.) She also checked prices for a new trailer and requested estimates to repaint and repair the old trailer. After discussion, a motion was made by T. Ciarlante and seconded by A. Shaw to seek township approval to buy a new trailer. The motion was approved and the chair will draft a letter to the township council requesting approval. The old trailer would be offered to public works for its use.

6. **Township liaison:** R. Yeatman reported that there was a meeting today with county engineering and highway officials on closing off Vineyard Road as part of the **Atco Lake upgrade** and making that section part of the township area. Louden Fire Hall has applied to the county to use their Clean Communities funding to **clean up Jackson road** (a county road). They are required to clean a minimum of one mile at least three times a year, and a county representative must be present at the cleanups. The **Lombardo property** is close to being off the Department of Environmental Protection list, as it appears that all the “hot spots” have been taken care of. The installation of an **EV charging station** was proposed, as a way of bringing people to the township who then might also visit the town’s businesses. C. Buffington will obtain information and there may be grants available for an installation.

7. **Land Use Board liaison**: R. Yeatman reported that we will look for a **new recycling company** when the current contract expires in May.

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

9. **Current Business**: **Winter on the Avenue** (December 4): We signed up for the following shifts: E. Paul will bring the trailer and set up at 3PM; 4-6PM - T. Ciarlante, G. DeSorte and P. Butenis; 6-8PM - T. Ciarlante, A. Shaw, R. Casian; 7-9PM – K. Andrews, E. Paul, H. Pino, R. Yeatman. We have inserts about the plastic bag ban to put in the reusable totes we will give away, and K. Andrews will make a poster alerting people to the ban and information at our table. We also had copies made of our informational handouts, some of which have been updated. P. Butenis will send T.Ciarlante the link to the ANJEC information about the ban, to post on our Facebook page. P. Butenis will buy candy for prizes for the trivia wheel.

10. **New Business**: G. DeSorte said she was trying to contact the Director of Environmental affairs for Camden County, about our **Adopt-a-Lake proposal.** We agreed to participate in the **April 23, 2022 (Earth Day) event** organized by the War Memorial Committee and will apply for free tree seedlings again if the state forestry service is providing them. It was pointed out that we committed to the South Jersey Land and Water Trust **Atco Lake cleanup on April 2, 2022** and our own **spring cleanup on the following Saturday, April 9,** giving us three activities in one month. The suggestion was made that if all members participated in one or two of the events, we should be able to manage all three. It was also proposed that we move our spring cleanup to April 30.

11. **Pinelands Commission notifications**: None received.

12. **Comments from the public:** B. Doney mentioned the November 10 fire at a South Philly junkyard, with massive amounts of smoke in part from burning tires. He pointed out that the proposed (and defeated) plan to sell the Atco Dragway to an auto storage facility would have been vulnerable to the same kind of event.

13. **Comments from members**: T. Ciarlante asked where to get signs that credited different organizations, like the Cub Scouts, for keeping a road litter free. She was referred to Township Clerk Dawn Liedtka. C. Buffington mentioned another invasive insect, the Asian Lady beetle, which has displaced our native lady Bugs. Several members reported seeing this invasive insect recently.

14: **Adjournment:** A. Shaw moved to adjourn and G. DeSorte seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:58.

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