**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)**

**MINUTES – FEBRUARY 17, 2022**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:01 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, G. DeSorte, E. Paul, A. Shaw, M. Ward, R. Yeatman

Excused: C. Buffington, T. Ciarlante

Absent: K. Andrews, R. Casian, H. Pino,

2. M**inutes from January meeting:** In the absence of a quorum, approval of the minutes was deferred to next month.

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

4.  **Chair’s report:** The contents of the old trailer have been transferred to the new one. T. Ciarlante may have the new tags. We have to clarify who will arrange for our logo and name to be put on the trailer. We also need to find out where our logo is stored digitally. Our next meeting is on March 17 which is St. Patrick ’s Day and if the Senior Center is hosting an event, we will have to find another location for our meeting.

5. **Clean Communities:** No report

6. **Township liaison:** R. Yeatman reported that they were firming up the design for closing Vineyard Road, after which the county engineers could finish their design for the other improvements to **Atco Lake.** We are also considering an initial effort to remove the lily pads choking the lake. We were invited to look at the solar lamps installed along the Pike side of the lake. The township is pursuing installation of **EV charging stations**, with two officials participating in a webinar on the topic. The **community calendar** is still only on paper with the Waterford Township Civic and Events Association but will eventually be posted on the township’s website. Regarding the use of **cameras** to deter trash dumping in the woods, the general consensus is that dumping has gotten worse. R. Yeatman confirmed his support. M. Ward is talking with someone who is familiar with cameras, says they are relatively inexpensive and will offer advice. We will look into the possibility of obtaining grants for this purpose. Further discussion touched on a central camera monitoring point, enlisting police support, and the suggested most effective placementsat Linden Avenue, Burnt Mill and around the Atco drag way, as locations which attract the worst dumping. As an alternative first step, we talked about putting up signs announcing camera monitoring, to see if the signs alone were effective deterrents.

7. **Land Use Board liaison**: M. Ward reported that 60% of the applications received are for waivers for pole barn size/requirements, so the committee is considering relaxing the rules to cut down on the need for so many applications.

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

9. **Current Business:** P. Butenis reported that we have given away 125 **reusable totes** through the bin at town hall. We agreed we could continue to stock the bin as long as we had enough bags for our future events. On the events **checklists** that we were drafting, it appears that there already are check lists in the files that R. Doney passed to R. Yeatman, so E. Paul will collect those files and pass on the checklists.

10. **New Business**: We are confirmed for the **April 2 Atco lake cleanup** with South Jersey Land and Water Trust and the Watershed Ambassador Pail Signore (AmeriCorps). We would like to see several WTEC members turn out for that event. We continue to plan for the **April 9 Spring Cleanup** and the **April 23 War Memorial Committee/tree seedling giveaway**.

11. **Pinelands Commission notifications**: Nothing to report

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

13. **Comments from members**: M. Ward said that the township was receiving inquiries about available locations for cannabis growing. At the present time, the only possible locations would be the Atco dragway and land zoned for agriculture, and it’s not clear that the Pinelands Commission would consider cannabis an approved crop. Potential growers need an identified site for production before they apply for a state license.

14. **Adjournment:** P. Butenis moved to adjourn and A. Shaw seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:55.

**Next proposed meeting date: March 17, 2022**