**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)**

**MINUTES – APRIL 21, 2022**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM. This meeting was held in the Waterford Township 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: C. Buffington, P. Butenis, R. Casian, T. Ciarlante, G. DeSorte, E. Paul, M. Ward, R. Yeatman

Excused: H. Pino, A. Shaw

2. M**inutes from March meeting:** T. Ciarlante moved to approve, M. Ward seconded, the minutes were approved.

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

4.  **Chair’s report:** E. Paul found posters with our logo that can be used for the **trailer** lettering design but the township has now imposed a freeze on spending. However, T. Ciarlante was asked to obtain quotes for different design options (all black green, multi-colored, etc.) for when funding is available. The **Atco lake cleanup** (with 40-50 volunteers) and the **Spring cleanup** (over 100 volunteers, possibly a record) were very successful. For future cleanups, we will assign routes and note the groups’ assignments. B. Doney suggested we combine the cleanups with the Adopt a Road program, so that if the Boy Scouts, for example, always clean Jackson Road, we could install a sign acknowledging their sponsorship of that road. The tremendous amount of trash across from the Atco Dragway was noted and a suggestion made that our cleanups focus on the more public main roads. We suggested a township ordinance that requires businesses to clean up the trash on their property or be fined.

5. **Clean Communities:** T. Ciarlante reported a balance of $15,052.09. Our Facebook page had 1711 engagements and the flyer we posted about the May 14 shredding event reached 524 people.

6. **Township liaison:** R. Yeatman reported that the township **events calendar** will be linked to the township calendar on the township’s website but it is still a work in progress. There was more discussion about the **lily pads choking Atco Lake**, and the need to remove some of them before the June 4 Fishing Derby. B. Doney commented that 80% of the lake shore cannot be fished. Regarding the use of **cameras** to deter trash dumping in the woods, the person M. Ward invited to address this with us could not make this evening’s meeting and will reschedule. R. Yeatman announced that Kellie Andrews has **resigned** from the Environmental Commission.

7. **Land Use Board liaison**: M. Ward reported that Conifer Realty received a commitment for full funding of its Waterford project after initially being informed last November that it had just missed qualifying for the financing. The full funding is contingent upon Conifer satisfying all outside agency requirements (state, local and Pinelands) by this coming September.  Last August, Conifer received Preliminary Subdivision and Site Plan approval from the Waterford Land Use Board for its project on 6 1/2 acres at the "rear" of the former Lombardo Property, adjacent to Haines Boulevard. If it can meet the funding requirements (which it has assured the Township will occur), Conifer would like to begin construction in May or June of 2023. The hope is that an increase in new housing will serve as a catalyst for increased business development, such as a grocery store.

8. **Trails ambassador**: R. Casian noted an increase in the number of people walking their dogs on the trails and a greater Park Police presence.

9. **New Business**: P. Butenis reviewed the preparations for the **April 23 Earth Day/seedlings giveaway event,** reminding members of the need to staff the table. E.Paul reported that the **May 14 shredding event** was all set. On the **June 4 fishing derby**, he distributed lists of businesses which members were asked to contact to solicit prizes or cash donations.

10. **Pinelands Commission notifications**: E. Paul received a copy of a letter of a violation committed by a church, which paved a larger area than had been permitted and were told to rip up the extra paving and restore the area to its previous condition.

11. **Comments from the public:** M. Ward asked about the status of having an **EV charging station** in the township. R. Yeatman said the township council has decided not to pursue this for the immediate future. R. Yeatman urged the members to actively recruit **new WTEC members**, in particular to find someone to succeed E. Paul, who will no longer be able to remain as Acting Chair.

12. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

**Next proposed meeting date: May 19, 2022**