**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)**

**MINUTES – JUNE 16, 2022**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM. This meeting was held in the Waterford Township Senior Center. The Sunshine Rule was announced and the pledge of allegiance recited.

**Members**: 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, R. Yeatman

Excused: C. Buffington, A. Shaw

Absent: H. Pino, M. Ward

2. M**inutes from April and May meetings:** E. Paul moved to approve, T. Ciarlante seconded, the minutes were approved.

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

4.  **Chair’s report:** E. Paul reported that the 200 **seedlings give-away** and the **shredding events** were a success. He shared a list of Lessons Learned from the **fishing derby**, to include conducting the raffle only after the trophies are awarded and ensuring that adults sign the waivers for their children with complete information. The Chair will take our trailer to a sign company for an estimate to put our **logo** on. He again urged members to actively cultivate **new candidates for the WTEC.**

5. **Clean Communities/Social Media:** T. Ciarlante reported a balance of $14, 148.80. The Township has hired a seasonal employee at $17.00/hour. We are getting quotes for another order of reusable bags, since we only have a few hundred left. Our Facebook page continues to attract engagements, with our fishing derby post reaching 1709 people.

6. **Township liaison:** R. Yeatman expressed concerns with the county for not fulfilling its commitment to remove the lily pads from **Atco Lake** before the fishing derby. In general, the county seems to be slow in its promised action on upgrading the lake area. P. Butenis cited a Courier Post article about Clean Communities funding which stated that such funds could be used to pass and enforce an **anti-littering ordinance**, which could be used to compel businesses to keep their properties free of trash. R.Yeatman said the township already had such an ordinance though discussion indicated that there was likely no one specific anti-littering ordinance for commercial properties. He offered to look into the matter and provide copies of relevant ordinances.

7. **Land Use Board liaison**: There was no report but B. Doney asked about the WTEC role in approving applications made to the Land Use board, specifically if the board fully considered environmental requirements and impact. It was explained that there had been a process in the past in which proposals were reviewed by the WTEC before a decision by Land Use. However, the process has proven to be cumbersome and with a very short timeline. That is why M. Ward has been providing updates on potential environmental concerns to this commission. E. Paul noted that he had been on the WTEC sub-committee reviewing proposals and found that the municipal engineer had been thorough in considering environmental aspects.

8. **Trails ambassador**: R. Casian reported that the recent heavy rain has created large ruts in Burnt Mill Road. Wildcat Branch is the stream that flows from the Beaver dam lake to the Sleeper branch, passing under Burnt Mill Road through a large pipe. The beavers have blocked the pipe, causing the backup to flow over the road. Arrowhead Road, about 100 feet east of the pipe, going from Burnt Mill to Chew Road, is also affected. We wondered who was responsible for clearing out the pipe.

9. **New Business**: We need to decide dates for our fall cleanup and other activities and if we will participate in National Night Out. P. Butenis will ask Michael Hogan of New Jersey Land and Water Trust if they have any cleanups planned in Waterford later this year.

(C. Buffington later provided the following information on township activities: July 16 – car show; August 2 – National Night Out; September 24- township-wide yard sale; October 8 – Brotherton Brewery Octoberfest; October 22, October 29 - likely Trunk or Treat and the Halloween parade; November 5 – possible Veterans Walk; December 3 – Winter on the Avenue.)

10. **Pinelands Commission notifications**: Nothing received.

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

12. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

**Next proposed meeting date: July 21, 2022**