**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)**

**MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 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: C. Buffington, P. Butenis, R. Casian, T. Ciarlante, G. DeSorte, E. Paul, M. Ward, R. Yeatman

Excused: A. Shaw

Absent: H. Pino

2. M**inutes from the June and August meetings:** P. Butenis made a motion to approve the minutes and G. DeSorte seconded. The minutes were approved.

3. **Open to Public:** NA

4.  **Chair’s report:** We now need three quotes for the **signage on our trailer** which the Chair will obtain. P. Butenis will sign on behalf of the Chair the letter to the Township Council proposing that odd/even numbered houses can only water their lawns on odd/even dates, as a **water conservation measure**. The **littering ordinance** will be reviewed later. On the **October 1 fall cleanup**, we reviewed the checklist of assignments and encouraged all members to turn out.

5. **Clean Communities/Social Media:** T. Ciarlante reported an **account balance** of $10,649.80. There were 238 “likes” on our FB page. We discussed the need to **pay volunteer organizations** for their participation in the spring cleanup as soon as possible and R. Yeatman assured that the checks would be ready for distribution at the fall cleanup.

6. **Township liaison:** On preventing dumping in the forest, R. Casian will look into obtaining a **camera to monitor for dumping**. As decided at the last meeting, Public Works will make signs that say “Call DEP in case of littering and/or dumping” for posting along Wharton trails and roads. (R. Yeatman will make the request). We still have to determine who will download the images on a monthly basis and review them. Township use of **Nixle** still pending. R. Yeatman will contact DPE about **clearing the beaver-blocked pipe** under Burnt Mill Road. The state denied our application for a grant to build a **bike path** along the Old White Horse Pike, due to an incomplete application. We received a **$25,000 grant** from the county for shaded seating at Ritter Field and picnic tables in Lions Park.

7. **Land Use Board liaison**: M. Ward reported that the Land Use Board discussed the need to find **another source of water**, in a different aquifer. There is interest in building two **warehouses** on the Haines Blvd. acreage.

8. **Trails ambassador**: R. Casian urged members to participate in the September 27 **DEP webinar** that will explain the Wharton Forest use survey DEP will conduct in the coming months. The survey will give people an opportunity to say what activities they engage in in Wharton and which parts of Wharton they visit. T. Ciarlante will post the DEP notice about the webinar on our FB page.

9. **New Business**: We decided not to participate in the scarecrow lamp post decorating on Atco Avenue, the Brotherton Oktober Fest on October 8 or trunk or treat. We will have a table at the fire hall for **Fire Prevention Night** on October 14. The Atco Lake cleanup with the South Jersey Land and Water Trust (Michael Hogan) is Saturday, November 5 and **Winter on the Avenue** is December 3 (Saturday).

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

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

12. **Comments from members:** R. Yeatman commented on the large increase in the deer population this year. G. DeSorte reminded members of the urgent need to actively recruit new members for the WTEC, especially at our events.

13. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:22PM.

**Next proposed meeting date: October 20, 2022**