

## **WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)**

### **MINUTES – OCTOBER 20, 2022**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM. This meeting was held in the Municipal Building. 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, G. DeSorte, E. Paul, M. Ward, R. Yeatman

Excused: T. Ciarlante

Absent: H. Pino

2. **Minutes from the September meeting:** A. Shaw made a motion to approve the minutes and E. Paul seconded. The minutes were approved.

3. **Open to Public:** R. Doney brought to our attention an article about likely upcoming modifications to the ban on single use bags in New Jersey. We agreed that people are now used to bringing their own reusable bags and it has had a positive impact on the environment.

4. **Chair's report:** The Chair again urged the Commission to identify **another Chair** as he will be unable to continue in that role. He hopes to review the littering ordinance soon. On the **signage on our trailer**, G. DeSorte volunteered to get two more quotes, showing companies a photo of the trailer rather than bringing the trailer itself to them. We only need one color for the signage. The Chair referred to the County's information about making **spotted lantern fly traps**, and suggested we hold a workshop in the spring to teach people how to build them. He proposed making one in January or February, as a trial run.

5. **Clean Communities/Social Media:** P. Butenis reported that T. Ciarlante was waiting for our current **account balance** from Township staff. She had a quote of

\$2.89 for **reusable bags** with our logo. This is the same bag we have ordered before. R. Yeatman advised that we now need three estimates for a purchase.

6. **Township liaison:** R. Yeatman said that Public Works will make about 10 **signs that say “Call DEP in case of littering and/or dumping”** for posting along Wharton trails and roads, especially Burnt Mill Road. They can be placed below the existing signs that warn of \$1000 fines for dumping. R. Casian offered to install the signs and R. Yeatman will discuss his offer with Public Works. R. Yeatman contacted DPE about **clearing the beaver-blocked pipe** under Burnt Mill Road and is waiting for a call back. The Township turned down our request to impose **water use restrictions**, given the recent rainfall. The Township will submit the application for funding for a **bike path** to a different state program, after some modifications to our proposal. (The original application was rejected). On the Township **resolution opposing DEP’s proposed permit system** to regulate vehicle use in Wharton Forest, passed on October 12, P. Butenis objected to the premise that off-road vehicle damage was not a problem and to the lack of consultation with the WTEC. She said she would be resigning in protest. R. Yeatman said there hadn’t been enough time for consultation and thanked her for her service.

7. **Land Use Board liaison:** M. Ward reported on a **dispute with the Green Acres Program** about the alleged encroachment on Green Acres-encumbered property by the Public Works salt shed on Burnt Mill. Failure to be in compliance may result in our ineligibility for Green Acres.

8. **Trails ambassador:** R. Casian reported that had looked on Amazon for **cameras** for our use in monitoring dumping in Wharton and there is quite a range, starting at \$60.00, operating on batteries. There are some with solar panels at around \$120. We decided that Rick should buy two different types and try them out. We still have to determine who will download the images on a monthly basis and review them.

9. **New Business:** The **Fall/Atco Lake cleanup** with the South Jersey Land and Water Trust (Michael Hogan) is Saturday, November 5. We will order the same amount of food (pizza and hoagies) that we planned for October. **Winter on the Avenue** is December 3 (Saturday).

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

11. **Comments from the public:** R. Doney saw a lake in Audubon that had been treated for lily pads. R. Yeatman explained that all the engineering plans to close Vineyard road were completed and submitted to the county last week. Once the project is finalized, funding will be authorized.

12. **Comments from members:** R. Yeatman mentioned that legislation has been introduced in Trenton to require towns to routinely **sweep their streets** and to promote composting. More information to follow.

13. **Adjournment:** A. Shaw made a motion to adjourn, seconded by E. Paul. The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

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

**Meeting Minutes Approved February 16, 2023**