

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)
MINUTES - April 18, 2024**

Members: Rick Yeatman - Chairperson, Terry Ciarlante - Clean Communities Coordinator, David Demsey, Craig Buffington, Gabrielle DeSorte, Mike Ward, Jennifer Treloar, Bob Doney - Township Liaison

Green Team Members: Rich Casian, Ed Paul

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM. This meeting was held in the Waterford Township Municipal Courtroom. The Sunshine Rule was announced and the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Roll Call: Rick Yeatman, Terry Ciarlante, Mike Ward, Craig Buffington, Gabrielle DeSorte, Ed Paul, Jennifer Treloar, Rich Casian, Bob Doney. Absent: David Demsey

Reading and approval of minutes: Minutes from the March 2024 meeting were read and approved. (Motion, Terry Ciarlante, Second, Mike Ward)

Chair's report: Rick Yeatman:

Atco Lake - per the mayor, the legal paperwork to begin oil tank removal is still pending

Membership & leadership:

Goals for 2024:

Paper Shredding Event: Date is set for Saturday, May 18th from 9 am to Noon in the municipal building parking lot. TAB will do the shredding here, at a cost of \$500. Camden County will reimburse up to \$1000 towards shredding annually. It was agreed to schedule another shredding event for the 3rd weekend of September, 9/21/24. All advertising for the event must stipulate that the event is sponsored by the Camden County Freeholders. Terry Ciarlante will check the existing signage in the trailer.

Trash Cans at Wharton Forest Entrances: Township purchased six cans, with two at the Atsion entrance and two at the Burnt Mill Road entrance as a test. The cans are chained up so as not to be stolen. The township will pick up trash weekly while doing regular trash runs.

Wharton Forest Road Closures: Discussion regarding the township meeting with the DEP, the Pinelands Commission, State Senator Paul Moriarity, members of the Township Committee, and representatives from the WTEC. Rick Yeatman reported that David Demsey did an outstanding presentation which was well received by all present. Dave's presentation outlined how the DEP could put up signs indicating which vehicles could go on certain roads on Wharton State forest. This addressed their stated concerns about damage to the roads and trails. Dave's

presentation included the lists of roads and vehicle types. Rick reported that the Mayor wants to schedule another meeting to follow up on our concerns.

New Recycling Opportunity - TREX benches. Rick Yeatman reporting for David Demsey. Rick suggested that we partner with local businesses to collect plastic wrap. Discussion ensued as to which local businesses: UFC, Whole Heart Dog Pantry at/near Masso's, Paws, Archway, Tractor Supply, Atco Carpet, dry cleaners, the new laundromat, B&B Drywall, Mike Ward. We also discussed water softener bags from residents.s

Clean Communities Report: Terry Ciarlante: Account balance is \$46,898.37. Social media report: our Facebook page has 485 followers. Facebook states that over the last 90 days, our posts have reached 62,000 users. Engagement is up. Facebook statistics say more women check our page than men, and the age group that checks the most is 35-54 years old. We get the most engagement on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Bob Doney suggested that we spend money to promote on Facebook. There was general agreement on this; Craig Buffington made the motion to promote on Facebook, Gabrielle Desorte seconded. Motion carried. Terry Ciarlante will reach out to Louise Sands about promoting our events.

There was also discussion about how we need to get contact information for all the groups at the town clean up on April 20th. While signing up folks, we need to remind them to send back the form we send them so that we can pay them promptly. We also want to make sure we save that contact information so that we can reach out to their leaders before future events.

Township Committee Liaison Report: Bob Doney: Nothing new to report.

Land Use Board Liaison Report: Rick Yeatman: Nothing new to report

Trails Ambassador Report: Rich Casian: Rich has been keeping an eye on Burnt Mill & Tremont. He reported that a roofer had dumped shingles on Chew Road, near Pestletown Road. The location was added to the town clean-up list. Rick Yeatman mentioned that the police can put up cameras with memory cards. (so we can swap out the memory cards and try to track down the illegal dumpers)

Rich texted the sign locations to Rick.

Old Business: Environmental School Programs. Jennifer Treloar & Terry Ciarlante

Jen will research the DEP site and reach out.

Also, Craig requested that we fix his email address on WTEC mailings - craigbuff@verizon.net.

New Business: Spring Cleanup - April 20, 2024

Rick Yeatman has not received confirmation on numbers for groups attending.

There was discussion around Terry putting out money for buying food and then being reimbursed. Bob Doney stated that we must figure out something with reimbursements so that members aren't expected to put out large amounts of money and await reimbursement. He is speaking to the Township Committee about this.

We are set on supplies. We have around 125 trash grabbers. We discussed buying pails for children to use on future clean-ups, and discussion about sturdy trash bags. We'll re-evaluate supply needs after the April clean-up at the May meeting.

We need to make sure that we have releases and road lists for Saturday.

Discussion around drinking water and testing for PFF's was raised by Rick Yeatman. Rick will reach out to the township about testing municipal water.

Fishing Derby - Ed Paul gave Rick Yeatman a flash drive with fishing derby information. Rick will locate it. Rick mentioned that we need to start soliciting donations. Rick will assign businesses to group members so that we can make calls. He'll email us a letter to use. Bob Doney will contact the police department about partnering with us. Bob will also reach out to Denny's about port-a-potties. There was also discussion about getting Mike Hogan to sample the lake water.

Bob Doney will start buying prizes for the derby. He also is in charge of buying dirt and worms. Rich Cassian and Bob Doney volunteered to be in charge of sorting the worms and the dirt into red solo cups. They graciously offered this coveted job to Jen and Gabrielle. They respectfully declined.

Pinelands Commission notifications - there were none to report

Meeting open to the public - no members of the public present

Comments from members: Jen Treloar reported on a visit to Staples and showed their battery recycling boxes. Staples is willing to partner with groups like the WTEC and send supplies for recycling batteries. Jen will contact Staples for more supplies.

We had a discussion about potential drop off areas for batteries. Bob Doney suggested the fire department and public works.

Motion was made to adjourn by Craig Buffington, seconded by Gabrielle DeSorte. Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Treloar, WTEC member

