**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)**

**MINUTES - August 15, 2024**

**Members:** Rick Yeatman - Chairperson, Terry Ciarlante - Clean Communities Coordinator, DavidDemsey, Craig Buffington, Gabrielle DeSorte, Mike Ward, Jennifer Treloar, Bob Doney - Township Liaison. New member added, Kyle Santos.

**Green Team Members:** Rich Casian, Ed Paul

**Meeting called to order** at 7:04 PM. The 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. Ed Paul, Rich Casian, Jennifer Treloar, Bob Doney, Gabrielle DeSorte. Absent: David Demsey, Kyle Santos

**Reading and approval of minutes:** Minutes from the June 2024 meeting were read and approved.. (Motion, Craig Buffington, second, Terry Ciarlante)

**Chair’s report:** (R. Yeatman) We were invited to the Atco Assembly of God Annual Fall Fest on October 19 from 10am -2pm. There is also a Family Fun Day at Christ the Redeemer on September 21st. Brotherton Birthday Bash is 10/5 from 12:30 to 4:30, which is also the same day as our Fall Clean Up event, from 8 to noon. We agreed to start lunch at 11:15 so we can get over to Atco Avenue in time. It was also mentioned that we can use the tables at Clementon Gun Club during the clean up event.

Atco Lake: The suspected underground oil tanks were found to be old well head/scrap metal and drainage pipes, so no remediation is required. Rick also mentioned a recent meeting with the County Parks Department that he attended with Mayor Tom Giangiullio.

Atco lake clean up phases:

Phase 1, Vineyard Road to be closed and paving begun

Phase 2, Dredging Atco Lake and creating a trail

Phase 3, Creating a recreation area and pavilion. (Rick suggested a dog park be created as well)

Commissioner Nash wants to do phases 1 and 2 concurrently.

Rick described the dredging process for the Commission. Rick asked Camden County officials what they needed from us during the meeting, and they indicated paperwork and providing a police presence.

Rick brought in a map of the proposed plan, which we all reviewed and discussed. We discussed “lily pad toxicology.” Rick wants to make sure they kill off the lily pads when they dredge. We discussed concerns about harm to the lake from killing off the lily pads. Bob Doney indicated the lake would be restocked if that happened.

Other lake matters discussed: fences to protect the nearby townhomes, the possible sale of nearby homes, and a floating boardwalk across the lake.

**Chair’s report, continued:** Rick announced that all WTEC membership spots have been filled with Kyle Santos being approved by the Township Committee.

Rick also mentioned that he would follow up with the chief of police about our location for the 9/21 shredding event.

**Clean Communities report:** (T. Ciarlante) Account balances were broken down for us. 2022: $12,234.86 balance

2023 $29,331.50 balance

2024 $21,399.899

Social media We have 533 followers of our page. Engagement up 32% on posts.

We discussed ways to spend Clean Communities money. Rick mentioned that we can sponsor fishing trips and give bags out to schools to give to students. We can also give out books consistent with our mission.

Gabrielle mentioned checking with local science teachers for “wish list” items we can fund. This suggestion was met with unanimous, enthusiastic support. Terry will reach out to our three public schools, Thomas Richards, Waterford, and Atco Elementary, and find out if there are things consistent with our mission that we can fund for our local teachers.

Bob Doney suggested a t-shirt contest, based on artwork submitted by students. Rick will follow up with schools to develop a timeline for the above ideas.

Bob also mentioned that the Department of Public Works wants to purchase two strong gas driven blowers from their part of the Clean Communities budget. Bob will obtain and circulate to us the Clean Community guidelines. Bob also mentioned that we need to be better at documenting expenditures. (This alludes back to a previous discussion where Terry and Bob both fronted larger sums of money for different WTEC functions and had to wait to be reimbursed)

**Township Committee Liaison report**: (Bob Doney) The Deputy Mayor reported that there was nothing relevant to report.

**Land Use Board liaison report**: (Mike Ward) There was a request by the warehouse developers looking to raise the height so they could lease a potential warehouse for cold storage usage.

**Trails Ambassador report:** (R. Casian): Rich said there was nothing to report from the trail cameras.

**Old Business:** Rich - The new trash cans are being used, but are not overflowing. Ed stated he had received lots of compliments on the trash cans we put out at the various Wharton entrances. Rick announced that Ed had received the Mayor’s Award at the prior night’s Township Meeting.

**TREX Recycling Plan** (Benches) - There was discussion about containers for storing the recyclable items we collect. Rick indicated he will follow up on that.

**Battery Boxe**s - Jen Treloar - nothing new to report.

**Environmental School programs**  - Terry Ciarlante and Jen Treloar Nothing new to report.

**Pinelands Commission notifications** Rick: The mayor has had meetings with State Senator Paul Moriarty about getting the Township some relief with the Pinelands Commission, and is arguing for a larger stipend for the Township.

**Meeting Open to the Public:** none present

**Comments from members** Charlie D’Amici may join the Green Team.

**Adjourn**: Motion to adjourn made by Craig Buffington, seconded by Jennifer Treloar . Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

**Next Meeting Date: September 19th, 2024 - 7:00PM**

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Treloar, WTEC member