

WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)
MINUTES - June 20, 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. 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. Absent: David Demsey, Gabrielle DeSorte, Bob Doney,

Reading and approval of minutes: Minutes from the May 2024 meeting were read and approved with one correction: Craig Buffington to be added to the absent list. (Motion, Terry Ciarlante, Second, Craig Buffington)

Prior to Mike Ward's arrival, Craig questioned if we had a quorum. As our current membership is seven members and four were present, we established that we had a quorum and could continue.

Meeting Open to the Public: Kyle Santos, local resident residing on Chew Road was present. Kyle introduced himself and expressed his interest in joining the WTEC. Rick Yeatman introduced the commission to Kyle and advised him of his next steps to join us. Next steps are a letter to Mayor Tom Giangliulo expressing interest, including a brief resume. Rick advised Kyle that if he gets these items to Mayor Giangliulo prior to Wednesday, June 26th, the Township Committee can vote on him at the June 26th meeting. There were no objections raised to Kyle joining the WTEC. He raises goats and is aware of the trash dumping issues in the Waterford Works area.

Chair's report: (R. Yeatman) Atco Lake: Tank Remediation was rescheduled due to paperwork that was sent to Mayor Giangliulo at the last minute and was expected to be signed and returned immediately. Mayor Giangliulo was not aware of the expectation of immediacy. Now all paperwork is complete and we are waiting for the remediation company to have another opening. Rick gave a brief history of the Atco Lake project for the benefit of Kyle Santos. Of note in the briefing is that when samples were taken from the soil near the oil tanks, the results indicated no leakage. This section of the chair's report was given out of order, immediately before the Trails Report by Rich Casian.

Chair's report, continued: (R Yeatman) Both Shredding Event and Fishing Derby had a good turnout. Rick reported 130 attendees at the Fishing Derby, with over 120 people fishing. Craig observed that we ran out of fishing spots. Rick had requested that the county clear more space. They cleared some, near the trails, but not nearly enough. Rick weed-whacked for three hours the week prior to the derby. Rick observed that the weedless hooks we gave out were a big success, and that we should continue that next year. Ed mentioned that we went through most of our prizes and leftover prizes

from prior years. Jen mentioned that prior to our solicitations of funds next year, she would like to mail out postcards to all of our local businesses with a picture of Atco Lake and information about the Fishing Derby. Ed suggested Jen do the mailing in March. We agreed the mailing was a good idea. Jen will create a sample postcard.

Family Fun Day on Saturday July 20th has been canceled by the Township Committee due to concerns of violence. Craig reported that Christ the Redeemer's Fall Carnival and Brotherton's Birthday Bash have also been canceled due to concerns of violence. Mike Ward expressed his displeasure, that all of these events matter and build community.

Rick reported that we have received an invitation from Atco Assembly of God to attend their Annual Fall Fest on October 19 from 10am to 2pm. We agreed that we'll attend if they have it. Jen noted that leaves will be at peak. There are a lot of fairs and festivals that usually happen that weekend. And if violence is still a concern, it may be a greater concern as we get closer to the November presidential election.

Membership and Leadership We still need to fill our Alternate position.

Goals for 2024 Rick asked if there were any objections to our tentative dates for our Fall Shredding Event (9/21/24) and our Fall Cleanup (10/5/24.) There were none, so those are the official dates and we will begin publicizing them.

Clean Communities report: (T. Ciarlante) Account balance \$ _____

Social media We have 528 followers of our page. The three second reel that Terry posted had 443 views. Engagements on our posts are 2,400, up 317% from previous ninety days.

On 5/30/24 Cub Scout Troop 159 cleaned litter from Fernwood Avenue (10 Adults/12 Scouts/3 large bags of trash)

Township Committee Liaison report: (Bob Doney) Bob was absent, no report

Land Use Board liaison report: (Mike Ward) The Pinelands Commission has had issues with two of the licenses we've granted. Mike hopes that once the Township Committee gets regulations streamlined we'll have fewer issues with the Pinelands Commission. Mike also noted that we have had a number of submissions for bigger pole barns, and there might be some pushback on size.

Trails Ambassador report: (R. Casian): Rich reports he hasn't observed any dumping lately.

Old Business: Trash Cans at Wharton Forest entrances in place and are being used. All positive feedback on the trash cans.

TREX Recycling Plan (Benches) - Mike asked how we will manage this, asking businesses to put aside recyclable materials. We'll need to have people committed to picking up items on a regular basis. Mike also referenced just how much he had put aside on his farm. Rick suggested that we start with a field trip to Medford. Craig stated we need to organize our questions for Medford ahead of time.

Battery Boxes - Jen Treloar is following up with Call2Recycle, who handles the Staples program.

Environmental School programs - Terry Ciarlante and Jen Treloar

Terry is reaching out to DEP. Jen is reaching out to Mike Hogan. These are the questions they are to ask:

- 1) Are the presentations designed for a classroom, auditorium, or a Zoom presentation?
- 2) What is their availability? Dates and times.
- 3) How long are the presentations?

We then need to figure out if we go to the superintendent or the school board. Also, we need to find out if they need to preview the materials.

Pinelands Commission notifications Mike Ward reports that the Pinelands Commission has been sending out a number of violations. The local bus company received a violation notice for the millings on the property.

Meeting open to the public Kyle Santos is a big fan of the trash cans we've put up outside of Wharton State Forest. Rick & Ed advised him that we would welcome suggestions for new locations. Kyle also asked about the current ownership of the former raceway, and if we know of their intended plans. Mike Ward answered in the negative; he also distinguished between facts and social media speculation regarding the former raceway for Kyle's benefit. Mike also gave a synopsis of the issues facing the developers of the warehouse that wants to locate. Kyle related his work experience with warehouses.

Comments from members Jen observed that a state bottle and can deposit would address many of the issues that we contend with regarding littering. Mike gave an overview of the state legislature and bottle deposits.

Rick asked if we should skip the July meeting, making our next meeting August 15, 2024. Everyone agreed. Jen will email Rick acknowledging we are not meeting in July so that Town Clerk Dawn Liedtka is notified. Rick reminded Kyle of the Township Committee meeting June 26th.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Mike Ward, seconded by Craig Buffington. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Next Meeting Date: August 15, 2024 - 7:00PM

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Treloar, WTEC member