

WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)
MINUTES - May 15th, 2025

Members: Rick Yeatman - Chairperson, Terry Ciarlante - Clean Communities Coordinator, Craig Buffington, Gabrielle DeSorte, Mike Ward, Jennifer Treloar, Kyle Santos, Kevin Hassall. Bob Doney - Township Liaison

Green Team Members: Rich Casian, Ed Paul, Charlie Damiani

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. This meeting was held in the Waterford Township Municipal Courtroom. In accordance with Chapter 231 of the Open Public Meeting Act, notice of the time and place for this meeting was listed in the Central Record and the Courier Post. The Sunshine Rule was announced and the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Roll Call: Rick Yeatman, Gabrielle DeSorte, Terry Ciarlante, Mike Ward, Jennifer Treloar, Craig Buffington, Kyle Santos, Rich Cassian, Ed Paul & Bob Doney. Absent: Charlie Damiani & Kevin Hassall.

Clean Communities Report: (Terry Ciarlante) Clean Communities Report was given immediately so that Terry could return to a work event. Our account balance is \$49,940.40. We had seven non-profit groups present at the town clean-up, and 52 members of the public. We should be getting our annual Clean Communities money in the amount of \$34,588.50 shortly. Our Facebook page had 24,334 views.

We will be doing visors and hats with Yale School. Terry will set up Yale as a vendor with Dawn Liedtka, our Township Clerk. Terry obtained all of the Clean Communities activity books.

Reading and approval of minutes: Minutes from the March 2025 meeting were read. We corrected the date on the minutes from 3/19/2025 to 3/20/2025. Motion to accept made by Gabrielle Desorte; seconded by Kyle Santos. Minutes were accepted.

Meeting open to the public: No members of the public were present.

Chair's report: (Rick Yeatman)

Atco Lake: Our request to have the entire lake treated was conveyed to the County. The application contractor is awaiting approval for the permit.

Fishing Derby: Jennifer sent out 185 letters to local businesses soliciting donations for the Fishing Derby to be held on 6/7/25. Jennifer indicated that it was difficult to fit all of the information that we normally have on the letter on a standard size postcard. She indicated that we should look at doing a postcard the size of a typical political mailer next year, and will begin earlier with designing it. Trophies still need to be ordered and prizes purchased. The Police

Department will be participating in the Fishing Derby again this year, providing free pretzels and hotdogs. Mayor Doney will pick up the cups, worms, and dirt.

School Programs: Jennifer and Rick attended the April 30th Waterford Township School Board meeting at Waterford Elementary School. Rick discussed the activities that the WTEC could fund. School board president Michael DeNafo requested that we do a recycling audit at the Township schools. Jennifer attended the May 14th Waterford Township School Board meeting and discussed how the WTEC could fund teacher wish list items that are consistent with our mission.

Membership: Mayor Doney reviewed our by-laws and informed us that Rhea (Hood) Roane has to be a resident of Waterford Township in order to be appointed to the Green Team. Rhea emailed Mayor Doney with the proposal of creating an environmental workbook for local students. Mayor Doney estimates the project would cost between \$1500 - \$2000. Mayor Doney will forward email to Rick and call Rhea Hood to discuss further. Rick Yeatman motioned that we obtain more information about Rhea Hood's proposal, Jennifer Treloar seconded. Motion passed. Mayor Doney advised that this will have to go through the Township Committee. Ed Paul mentioned that we could apply to have it funded by ANJEC.

Spring Clean-up: Our Spring Clean-up on April 26th 2025 was a success. Eighteen roads and locations were cleaned, and over twenty cubic yards of litter were picked up. We handed out milkweed seeds with planting pods. We're grateful to Public Works for picking up the filled trash bags and the Police Department for their assistance.

Shredding Event: Our next event is the 5/17/25 Shredding Event. Members are to be there by 7:30 AM and the event will last until noon. All arrangements have been made. This year we will only have one public works employee assisting us. The Camden County Hazardous Waste Drop Off will be running concurrently off of Atco Avenue from 8:30 AM to 3 PM.

Finally, we are ordering 25 new township clean up signs and 200 activity books for children with our Clean Communities funds.

Pinelands Commission notifications: (Robert Doney) Mayor Doney just received a letter dated from August 2024 outlining the requirements for treating a lake in the Pinelands. Nothing will happen with Atco Lake until the Pinelands Commission is satisfied. We will need to find another way to address the lily pads in Atco Lake prior to the 6/7/25 Fishing Derby.

Land Use Board Liaison report: (Rick Yeatman) The warehouse on the White Horse Pike is moving forward, with an anticipated closing date of 6/15/25.

Trails Report: (Rich Cassian) Rich will be replacing the trail map box at Marilyn Beard.

Old Business:

TREX Recycling: Rick spoke to Pola Galie from the Medford Township Environmental Commission. They currently administer the program. Rick is 95% sure that the ACME in Voorhees will accept plastic waste. He anticipates we could begin as early as July.

Classroom program on forest fires & forest regrowth: Rick hasn't made any progress with the State Fire Service on their input. Of note, they have been very busy putting out fires.

New Business: Rick reminded us of the previously mentioned meeting times for the Spring Shredding Event and the Atco Lake Fishing Derby.

Wade's Salvage & Mulch Fire: We discussed the fire that broke out at Wade's Salvage & Mulch on April 27, 2025. Environmental issues discussed were groundwater contamination, the death of so many fish, and the lack of rain. We discussed what role we have as an environmental commission. Mayor Doney confirmed that we can make recommendations as an environmental commission.

Member Comments: Mayor Doney stated that Vinny from Public Works would like to purchase four mature trees to plant at Thomas Richards, with an estimated cost of \$900. Gabrielle suggested that we purchase the trees from a merchant located in Waterford Township. Mayor Doney will talk to Vinny and the Pinelands Commission, and find a reasonable solution with a local vendor.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Craig Buffington, seconded by Kyle Santos. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Next Meeting Date: June 19th, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Treloar, WTEC Recording Secretary