

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)
MINUTES – DECEMBER 20, 2018**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM. Sunshine Rule was announced and the flag was saluted.

Members: Craig Buffington, Pat Butenis, Terri & Dave Chiddenton, Charlie Damiani, Dennis LaMagna, Ed Paul, Salvatore Russomanno, Art Shaw

Honorary Member: Al Campbell

Liaison: Mary Sura

Green Team: Richard Casian

Roll Call: C. Buffington, P. Butenis, D. Chiddenton, T. Chiddenton, C. Damiani, E. Paul, A. Shaw

Excused: A. Campbell, M. Sura

Absent: D. LaMagna, R. Casian

Resigned: S. Russomanno

2. **Meeting open to the public:** Naomi Jainarine, Mullica River Watershed Ambassador (AmeriCorps) explained how WTEC could work with her on the various projects Watershed Ambassadors offer. She gave us a brochure listing the opportunities in educational presentations (including workshops in schools), projects (like rain garden plantings and tree plantings), and waterbody assessments. The Chair thanked Ms. Jainarine for her offer of partnership and said we would review how we might include Watershed Ambassadors in our formulation of WTEC goals for 2019.

3. **Reading and approval of minutes from the last meeting:** E. Paul moved to approve the minutes and C. Damiani seconded. Minutes were approved.

4. Clean Communities: T. Chiddenton reported that Loudon had cleaned up on Jackson Road, resulting in 12 big bags of trash while the Sierra Club representative only picked up one small bag's worth on her assigned route, Columbia Avenue and a retention pond (which she had cleaned up previously). We discussed how we might more fairly pay participating organizations, to reflect the amount of work they accomplished, rather than our current practice of paying \$250 for every second clean-up (for an annual total of \$500). We considered specifying that participants commit to covering at least a mile and A. Shaw proposed sending a letter in January outlining any new guidelines to participating organizations, so no one group will be singled out. C. Damiani reported that the Lions Club, which had been asked to clean up Chew Road, requested another location, citing the danger posed by the traffic on Chew.

5. Report from Township Liaison: No formal report but the Chair noted the presentation of Sustainable Jersey's Silver ranking plaque at the meeting and the warm words of appreciation to the WTEC from Mayor Richardson.

6. Report from Planning Board Liaison: No formal report but T. Chiddenton and C. Damiani, who attended two Planning Board meetings, reported that the Board accepted the NRI, with the next step being presentation to the Township Committee.

7. Old Business:

- Winter on the Avenue: All agreed WTEC participation was fully successful, with giving away 100 reusable shopping bags and awarding a rain barrel. Turnout was excellent, despite the drizzly weather.

- Waterford/Hammonton Green Drinks: WTEC members attended the Green Drinks event at Rocco's in Hammonton but thought the venue was too noisy (with a band playing) for conversation with the other Townships' EC members. We will host a Green Drinks on February 22 (Friday) and C. Buffington suggested using the American Legion hall.

- Tree Seedling Program: Our application for seedlings was accepted and we will get 275 native tree seedlings, to be picked up April 5 or 6. We thought the Spring Clean-up should be held immediately after, so we can give the seedlings away

before they dry out. The exact date TBD. We also discussed areas in the Township where we could plant some of the trees and Ms. Jainarine said if we identified a site near a water body she could recruit volunteers to assist in planting.

The Chair reported that Administrator Susan Danson had informed him about the NJ DEP program, the Atlantic White Cedar Initiative (https://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/njfs_awc_initiative.html) in which DEP will reforest areas in Waterford with Atlantic white cedars.

Terms: The Chair advised that as expected Sal Russomanno has resigned and Tom Giangliulo and Joel Thompson will join the WTEC. Mayor Richardson is in agreement with these changes.

8. New Business:

- 2019 Goals: The Chair shared a list of our 2018 goals as a basis for our discussion in January of our 2019 goals.
- Possible Meeting time Change: The Chair proposed changing our meeting time from 7:30PM to 7:00PM. One person was opposed, the rest were in favor, so pending Township approval and notification of the change for the Sunshine Law, our meetings will begin at 7:00PM.

9. Sustainable Jersey Review: The Chair confirmed that the Mayor had received official notification from SJ of Waterford's elevation to Silver level.

10. Pinelands Commission Reports: The Chair noted receipt of copies of Pinelands Commission letters to the Township updating them on actions taken on violations. He said that all the issues of concern to us were being addressed.

11. Comments from Membership: The Chair praised the WTEC team work which resulted in qualifying for SJ Silver and expressed his appreciation as well for all the outstanding work we accomplished in 2018. P. Butenis then credited the Chair's leadership and positive attitude in guiding the team in our work.

12. **Meeting Open to the Public:** Ms. Jainarine said she forgot to mention earlier that Watershed Ambassadors can also support biological assessments for streams and provide training so the Township can conduct these assessments on their own.

13. **Adjourn:** Motion was made to adjourn by C. Damiani and seconded by T. Chiddenton.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22PM, at which time D. LaMagna arrived.

Next proposed meeting date: Thursday, January 17 at 7:00PM (PENDING TOWNSHIP APPROVAL)