

**WATERFORD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (WTEC)
MINUTES – APRIL 19, 2018**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:29 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, A. Campbell, D. Chiddenton, T. Chiddenton, C. Damiani, D. LaMagna, E. Paul, A. Shaw

Excused Members: M. Sura, S. Russomanno

Absent: R. Casian

2. **Meeting open to the public:** none present.

3. **Reading and approval of minutes from the last meeting:** A. Shaw moved to approve the minutes and C. Buffington seconded. Minutes were approved.

4. **Clean Communities Report** (T. Chiddenton): Terri reported that she will make tee shirt presentations this week at the Atco and Thomas Richards schools at their environmental assemblies and hand out Clean-up flyers. She will also make a presentation at the Board of Education meeting. D. & T. Chiddenton, S. Russomanno and P. Butenis participated in Mike Hogan's Chew Road cleanup, which garnered very positive publicity for the WTEC in Mike's report of the event. In appreciation Mike invited all four WTEC members to be his guests at a South Jersey Land and Water Trust dinner, and Terri & Dave attended.

5. Report from Township Committee Liaison (The Chair reported in M. Sura's absence): It was announced at the Township meeting that the Pit was closed permanently due to the removal of the tub grinder machine that was used to turn vegetation into chips. This was a decision of the landscaping firm across the street which would provide this service free of charge but would take possession of the finished product. Brush is still collected curbside and is also accepted at the DPW yard on Saturdays from 9 – 1:30 with proof of residency. It has been reported that Township residents are recycling more categories of plastics, so that in March, the contractor collected 35 tons less of trash and more recyclables.

6. Report from Planning Board Liaison: (T. Chiddenton reported in S. Russomanno's absence): The house next to Old Nelson's, at the corner of Richards and Ellwood, already exceeds the percentage of impervious surface permitted (30%) and has requested and received authorization for additional construction. The property already pours a lot of water into the street when it rains so they will install an underground storm water containment system rather than having the water continue to drain into the street. The "Old Town" development also has water issues, due to a very high water table.

7. Old Business:

- **Rain Barrels:** the workshop is set for Saturday, April 28 at 2:00PM in the Chiddentons' garage. Food will be provided.
- **Spring Clean-up:** (Saturday, May 5). The rain barrels will be moved to the Gun Club Friday night. We may have a lot of volunteers and the amount of hoagies, pizza and hot dogs we should have on hand was discussed. A. Shaw suggested that we consider not providing water in plastic bottles, (not considered a "green" practice) and instead have jugs of water for people to fill cups or be encouraged to bring their own water bottles. We agreed that this was a good idea and would suggest on the flyer that volunteers bring their own water bottles.
- **Shredding event:** (Saturday, May 12). WTEC members' duties will include keeping the line of cars moving and assisting with the removal of shredding materials from the vehicles.

- **Spring fling:** (Saturday, May 19). Set up is at 9:00AM. We discussed the need to make color copies of several handouts, including coloring books and Monarch butterfly handouts.

8. **New Business:**

- **No Mow/retention basins:** The Chair met with Township Administrator Susan Danson and gave her the list of milkweed patches on Township roads that we would like designated “No Mow” areas. She said she would review the list with Public works. The Administrator also approved the plan to plant native wildflowers and milkweed in the Township’s retention basins.

- **Roundtables:** C. Damiani explained that the townships he contacted for possible roundtables with our WTEC delegate their Sustainable Jersey work to their Green Teams. The Chair pointed out that the purpose of the roundtables was to learn best practices, especially from a Silver township, so it didn’t matter which members of another Township Environmental Commission we met with. A. Shaw offered to reach out to Winslow through his contacts there.

9. **Sustainable Jersey Update:** The Chair reported that we currently have 210 points and need 140 more before September 9, if we want to be recognized at the Atlantic City awards luncheon. The Chair is hoping for the WTEC to be at 250 points by June 1, 2018. The school district did not meet the deadline for participation in Sustainable Jersey and will apply next year when we can partner with them.

10. **Comments from Members:** Continuing problems with Wade’s Salvage on Jackson Road were discussed. The wood chip pile is extremely high and a fire hazard. The state issues licenses but apparently does not inspect or enforce operations. A pond that was previously part of a wetlands area on the property has been filled in, another possible violation. Members also wanted to know the extent of the expansion of the junkyard from the grandfathered zone – now going into the Anderson Blvd. fenced-in area. Is he permitted to operate that as a junkyard also? The Chair said he would express our concerns to the Township.

A. Campbell suggested we look into the Camden County Open Spaces Trust as a source of grants for historical preservation, citing a successful application by the

town of Gibbsboro, which received \$150,000 from Open Spaces to preserve an historic building.

T. Chiddenton reported on some ideas from the ANJEC workshop WTEC members attended in March. We need more members for our Green Team and the Lions Club can be a source. Some environmental commissions track the number of hours individual members spend on EC projects (even though they are volunteers), as a way of documenting EC efforts. We should also send thank-you letters to all the businesses that support our events, including with food contributions (like pizza).

11. Meeting open to the public: none

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47PM .

Next proposed meeting date: May 17 at 7:30PM