

Waterford Township Environmental Commission (WTEC)

Minutes – January 18th, 2018

1. Meeting called to order at 7:45 P.M. Sunshine Law was announced and the flag was saluted.

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

Liaison: Mary Sura

Green Team: Richard Casian

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

Excused Member: R. Casian

Absent: D. LaMagna, M. Sura

2. Meeting Open to the Public: Michael and Anthony Szeg, and Paul Hackett, who are all members of Boy Scout Troop # 159, attended the WTEC meeting as a requirement for their “Communication,” “Citizenship in the Community,” and “Environmental Sciences” merit badges. They introduced themselves and their parents, who also attended. These scouts are also contemplating projects for their future Eagle Scout requirements. Paul is considering the rebuilding of the front porch of the Atco Christian Pre-School. D. Chiddenton assured the scouts that the WTEC will assist them, and that they could find some more ideas on the Sustainable Jersey website.

3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes from last Meeting: A motion was made by C. Damiani and seconded by C. Buffington, with S. Russomanno and A. Shaw abstaining. Minutes were approved.

4. Clean Communities Report (T. Chiddenton): The Sierra Club collected litter along Columbia Ave. and the adjacent retention basin. This was their last clean-up of the year. Girl Scout Troop # 30954 completed a clean-up along Bates Mill Rd.

5. Report from Township Committee Liaison (Sura): None

6. Report from Planning Board Member (Russomanno): The property on Burnt Mill Rd. that had been questioned by the Pinelands Commission due to a septic system being installed in an area with a high-water level, was found to be in need of a waiver. The foundation was built in 2009, and the previous owner was given a waiver of strict compliance, which had expired. The new owner must reapply for a new waiver. The issue of neglected vehicles was also addressed. A form letter will be sent to all the town’s automotive businesses, stating that they will all be uniformly inspected, so that the town’s ordinances and zoning restrictions will be enforced by everyone. Two features that will be inspected are the bay - to - vehicle ratio, and the length of time that a vehicle may be stored.

7. Old Business:

- The Pineland Commission is now involved in the Myer's Junkyard property. Action, which is requested by the Pinelands, will be discussed during the next Planning Board meeting.
- The Rain Barrel Workshop will be held at the Clementon Gun Club on the same date as our Spring Town Clean-up. More rain barrel information is forthcoming.
- A list of nineteen 2018 WTEC Goals was sent to the membership, which was updated after a discussion of goals during our Dec. WTEC meeting. Only one goal was added to this new list, which was the possibility of providing a place for our residents to recycle old automotive oil filters.
- T. Chiddenton reported that Sustainable Jersey will not permit a \$2,000 grant application (for wildflower seeds) because we were granted that amount in April. However, we can apply for a \$10,000 grant to assist our town in acquiring an ERI/NRI, which would be valuable for future development.

8. New Business:

- The members voted to reinstate D. Chiddenton as the Chair, C. Damiani as Co-Chair, T. Chiddenton as the Clean Communities Coordinator, and P. Butenis sharing the Secretarial position with T. Chiddenton.
- An ANJEC sponsored E.C. workshop will be held on March 24th in Sewell. P. Butenis, E. Paul, and T. & D. Chiddenton stated that they would attend.
- The members approved the date of May 5th as our Town Spring Clean-up date, and May 12th as the combined County Hazardous Waste/Free Shredding date. We also discussed the idea of coordinating the American Legion's Hoagie Sale for the 5th, so that we could purchase hoagies for the clean-up participants.

9. Sustainable Jersey Actions Update: Various members agreed to stay after the meeting to discuss their individual actions.

10. Comments from Membership: C. Damiani requested that we actively look into forming our 1st Environmental Roundtable. A. Shaw mentioned the residents' facebook postings about their dissatisfaction with the new trash/recycling company's performance, and wondered if we should place a statement on our fb page to encourage the residents to continue to recycle.

11. Meeting Open to the Public: Paul Hackett questioned the concept of Sustainable Jersey points. D. Chiddenton explained that we earn points for specific completed actions, which are required by Sustainable Jersey. The more actions we complete, the more points we earn. Once we reach the first goal of 150 points, our town becomes certified on the "Bronze Level." We need 350 points to reach the "Silver Level." All the actions are meant to increase Waterford's environmental awareness to help us become an eco-friendly community. Mr. Hackett mentioned an abandoned T.V. left at the side of the road at the end of Raritan. He was advised to call DPW, or, if he preferred, he could take the T.V. to the electronics trailer at the DPW.

12. Adjourn: Motion was made by S. Russomanno and seconded by A. Shaw to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Next Proposed Meeting Date: February 15th, at 7:30 P.M.