

Waterford Township Environmental Commission

June 18th, 2015 Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order at 7:37 P.M. Sunshine Law was announced, flag was saluted.

Members Present: Rich Beswick, Craig Buffington, Terri Chiddenton, Charlie Damiani, Sal Russomanno, Eva Suriani Liaison: Dave Chiddenton Excused: Sarah Harney, Julia Levoch-Day, Art Shaw

2. Meeting Open to Public: Committeeman R. Yeatman was present, and added to conversations throughout the meeting.

3. Minutes for Approval: A motion was made by R. Beswick and seconded by C. Damiani to approve the minutes from the May 21st meeting. Minutes were approved with abstentions from C. Buffington, and S. Russomanno, due to their absences.

4. Clean Community Report: T. Chiddenton reported that the township has hired four part-time summer helpers through the Clean Communities Grant. A weekly report will be submitted to either D. Chiddenton or herself. She also read a letter from Atlantic City Electric which stated that soil borings will be taken from property surrounding their service stations to ensure that no contamination is present in these areas.

5. Report from Township Committee Liaison: D. Chiddenton explained that the water tower will undergo periodic maintenance checks. The latest "city" water report from our township was very satisfactory. We should hear an update from Owens Corning on the results from their test wells by the end of July. Lastly, four sewer stations are slated to be refurbished.

6. Report from Planning Board Member: R. Beswick reported that several scheduled applications for the Board were canceled. Although Hammonton sent representatives to speak about the possibility of using the Tuckahoe Turf Farm as the site for the upcoming soccer tournaments, this application was postponed due to a lack of pertinent information.

7. Old Business: The members agreed that the Memorial Day Parade was a success. We believed that the schoolchildren in the T-Shirt Contest shirts were a huge factor for the positive response we received. We would like to continue to invite the children to ride with us during future parades. We also acknowledged that we need to supply members with MANY more flags to hand out to residents. Finally, we plan to ask permission to play patriotic music softly from the truck during next year's parade. E. Suriani spoke about the "Waterford Walks" program she ran for part of May and all of June. Since participation was rather low, she suggested that we ask a yoga or Tai Chi instructor to volunteer some free lessons during the program next year. We would present this idea during a Home and School meeting in order to encourage more participants. D. Chiddenton addressed the fact that several of our town's abandoned properties will be investigated and banks will be notified as to their responsibilities in maintaining these properties. Several members suggested contacting the Board of Health and the Mosquito Commission to examine these properties, as well. It was suggested that the Township Committee could pass an ordinance that properties must be sustained. T. Chiddenton asked which members were attending the Fishing Tournament, and thanked those members who obtained donations from local businesses.

8. New Business: The Environmental Commission set eighteen goals for themselves in January. During this mid-year point, we have successfully accomplished ten of those goals, and eliminated three outdated goals from the list. This leaves five goals to be completed before the year's end. In addition to our regular goals, we acknowledged the fact that we worked on a large "Illegal Dumping" campaign with the DEP, participate in banning off-road vehicles with the Wharton State Forest Volunteer Group, received an AN-JEC grant, held a district-wide T-shirt Contest, participated with the T-shirt winners in the Memorial Day Parade, initiated the "Waterford Walks" program, and encouraged the Gifted and Talented class at Waterford School to plant a Community Garden. We also established Sustainable Action partners. R. Beswick and E. Suriani will work on establishing a "Green Day," C. Buffington and R. Yeatman will submit notice of a Community Garden which has been planted behind the Louden Fire Station, C. Damiani and D. Chiddenton will collaborate on "Energy Tracking." T. Chiddenton and S. Russomanno will work as a team, as well. The remaining three members may either combine their efforts, or work on their own.

9. Comments from Membership: T. Chiddenton announced that Waterford Twp. Days will be on Sept. 19th on the field behind the Louden Fire Station. She also reported that the June 14th Eagle Scout Ceremony for Justin Day was inspiring, and that an Eagle Scout applicant, Dan McGinnis, will be attending our July meeting. S. Russomanno inquired about the outcome of reporting a Pa. resident for dumping brush within the Wharton State Forest boundaries. D. Chiddenton replied that our Chief of Police and the DEP were both notified. After a short discussion about the lack of action on water contamination caused by "Custom Craft Cleaners," R. Beswick wondered if residents should receive an updated list of labs which may test their well water for a discount. R. Yeatman agreed to look into supplying this list.

10. Meeting Open to Public: R. Yeatman had nothing further to add.

11. E. Suriani made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by S. Russomanno. Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 P.M.

Next Meeting: July 16th at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by T. Chiddenton