

## Waterford Township Environmental Commission

### January 21st, 2016 Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order at 7:28 P.M. Sunshine Law was announced, flag was saluted.

Members Present: Jon Becker, Rich Beswick, Craig Buffington, Terri and Dave Chiddenton, Charlie Damiani, Julia Levoch-Day, Sal Russomanno, Art Shaw  
Liaison: Al Campbell

J. Levoch-Day, C. Buffington, and J. Becker were sworn in to the WTEC by A. Campbell, whereas D. Chiddenton had been sworn in at an earlier date.

2. Meeting Open to Public: Rich Casian, Dennis LaMagna, and Rick Yeatman attended. They added to discussions throughout the meeting.

3. Minutes for Approval: A motion was made by C. Damiani and seconded by Art Shaw to approve the minutes from the Dec. 17th meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved with the exception of C. Buffington, who was absent from that meeting.

4. Clean Community Report: T. Chiddenton reported that she had sent out both a paper version and an electronic version of the WTEC's Annual Report to the Twp. Committee. She also wrote an e-mail to the War Memorial Committee in regards to the expansion of their "Adopt-a-Road" territory. The Sierra Club has now successfully expanded the area they have "adopted," and A. Campbell said he will speak to the American Legion about increasing their clean-up site, as well. Lastly, she explained details regarding the state's Tree Recovery Program, wherein our twp. can receive free saplings for planting. Both C. Buffington and R. Casian agreed that the Cub Scouts would gladly plant the saplings in order to earn badges.

5. Report from Township Committee Liaison: A. Campbell expressed his pleasure at being a part of the WTEC, once again, and congratulated the new members on their appointments.

6. Report from Planning Board Member: S. Russomanno explained that the latest Planning Board meeting was a re-org., so no real business, other than the election of officers, was on the agenda.

7. Old Business: Members discussed the feasibility of blueberry bushes surviving at the racetrack. J. Becker voiced a strong opinion that they will not receive the care to survive. R. Yeatman suggested that he and A. Campbell should approach the rest of the Twp. Committee to request a viewing of the paperwork from the DEP which allowed the 17 acres to be razed. In regards to the cleaning and labeling of storm drains, C. Buffington explained that rather than making this project available for an Eagle Scout, it could be reappointed to the entire troop, as a whole. T. Chiddenton added that she was writing a grant to assist with the cleaning of the drains. D. Chiddenton reported that E. Toussaint has sent letters to vacant property owners and banks which hold mortgages on these properties. He stated that he is very proud of the Twp. Committee for passing the ordinance last year that gave E. Toussaint the ability to contact these people. We will also keep in mind a company, which A. Shaw introduced to us through e-mail, that resolves vacant property issues for neighboring towns.

8. New Business: Although the appointment of a chairperson is a mayoral decision, the WTEC members made a motion that D. Chiddenton should be suggested as Chairperson, R. Beswick as Co-Chair, C. Damiani as Recording Secretary, and T. Chiddenton should remain the Clean Communities Coordinator. S. Rus-somanno second the motion, which was unanimously approved. The updated Directory was passed to the members to ascertain that their personal information was correct. D. Chiddenton presented his list of proposed goals, which were added onto by R. Beswick and C. Buffington. Lastly, the 2016 Proposed Budget was presented to the members, as well. This budget allowed for expenditures such as the WTEC's ANJEC membership dues, business cards, and additional signage for annual events.

9. Green Team Members: One of the 2016 goals was to increase our number of Green Team members. C. Buffington, R. Casian, D. LaMagna, and R. Yeatman all volunteered to become members immediately. This team, including the rest of the WTEC membership will be working on Sustainable actions for Silver Certification.

10. Comments from Membership: A. Shaw wondered if we could "adopt" the gazebo at Rotary Park for a Sustainable action. C. Damiani offered to attend the ANJEC Environmental Commission Training workshop on March 5<sup>th</sup>. T. Chiddenton asked if anyone would attend the Pinelands Commission's meeting on "Vacant Properties" and the "MAP" program, which is scheduled for Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>.

11. Meeting Open to Public: D. LaMagna inquired about "Adopt-a-Road" literature for the Knights of Columbus. He also offered information about solar installation, should the town decide to pursue it. R. Yeatman wondered if Bass Pro Shop might be interested in donating towards our Fishing Tournament next June. He also wondered if fees collected from vacant properties might be directed towards an ERI.

12. R. Beswick made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by C. Buffington. Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

**Next Meeting: February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted by T. Chiddenton