**Washington Township Environmental Commission (EC)**

**May 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Valeri Walsh, Kelly Martin, Merv Haines, Bill Leavens, Mark Napolitano, CJ Sinko, Gwen Montgomery, Ken Short - Meeting started at 7:31

1. April 2 meeting minutes approved.
2. Invasive species ordinance – The ordinance 3rd revision was presented to WTEC only minor changes were made from previous version. Merv and Mark opposed the ordinance as written due to concerns that homeowners may be held liable for having invasive species present on their properties which may not have been intentionally planted by the homeowner. It is too difficult to prove preexisting conditions to enforce action. There was also concern that the ordinance could be used as a form of harassment by anyone who wants to cause an issue for another neighbor. It was agreed to revamp the ordinance to remove homeowner penalties and use language stipulating prevention of a monoculture environment. Also need to add a top 10 invasive plant species list and add additional language on right of control in conservation easements and public property. For property owners whose invasive species are spreading onto public property this should remain enforceable.
3. High School Stream Testing: Merv provided an update that the BOE is requesting a 1 month notice for testing dates and they do not want to have stream testing conducted in the 4th marking period of the school year. Valerie is scheduled to present to the AP Chemistry and Env. Science Classes on May 15th. Merv is scheduled to conduct the testing on May 24th. Merv informed the WTEC that he is working on the map to optimize test sites.
4. Stony Brook foaming concern – CJ reported home owner contacted him again about seeing foam. Homeowner confirmed health department came out to investigate. CJ to follow up with homeowner and health department to determine if testing was done.
5. Conservation easements assessment/letters – Ken informed WTEC letters were being printed at a cost of $643.
6. Retention Basin pollinator planting – WTEC needs to decide which basins are best for planting. WTEC agreed to wait to hear back from NJDEP to determine if there any restrictions before we start project. Ken Short to provide update.
7. Green Festival – Laramie and Gwen expressed interest in taking lead on hosting a booth. Need to decide on theme.
8. AOB – Merv expressed interest in doing a public planting. Ken mentioned that there were complaints regarding old tires discarded on a property on Coleman road and the town was going to send a notice to have them removed. The WTEC mentioned the abandoned pool located on Camp Washington Rd. which is a mosquito concern as it has standing water in it.
9. Mail Call – There was nothing requiring action by WTEC.
10. Meeting adjourned 8:55