**Washington Township Environmental Commission (EC)**

**July 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Valeri Walsh, Kelly Martin, Merv Haines, Bill Leavens, Joe Amoroso, CJ Sinko - Meeting started at 7:31

1. May 7th - meeting minutes approved.
2. Invasive species ordinance – CJ and Joe discussed changes to ordinance to lessen home ownership liability placing more emphasis on local retailers to prevent the sale of certain invasives, like bamboo, barberry etc. in addition builders the ordinance would prohibit builders from planting invasives. While some of the EC members felt the ordinance should not have the authority to prevent property owners from planting invasives within their property other EC members favored having such restrictions. CJ to follow up with Hofmann Supply to see if they would be aligned with ordinance preventing sale of certain invasive species.
3. High School Stream Testing: Merv reported the testing was conducted without any issues. Test results were handed out.
4. Review Stream Location Map – Merv volunteered to overlay all current stream testing sites onto a tax map. This master copy can be used for copies and posted on our website. Kelly volunteered to take coordinates and overlay onto google map which may be a bit easier to use.
5. Well testing to replace stream testing? CJ and Joe discussed the idea of taking existing stream testing funds and using it for doing private well testing for more data. The EC addressed concerns that it would be difficult to get homeowners to participate, the well testing would be very expensive and would require an additional budget and stream testing is vital in monitoring for leaky septics and agricultural runoff. The EC discussed the lower number of participants that tested their wells through the ANJEC well testing program held in early spring. We discussed how to better advertise for the event and 2 ideas were 1) using the police station electric billboard and 2) advertising with WRNJ, which might be free for non-profits.
6. Retention basin planting – Still waiting for DEP comments.
7. Conservation easements assessment/letters – The team stayed until 10 stuffing envelopes for mailing.
8. Green Festival – No real movement on any ideas will discuss at next meeting.
9. 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.
10. Mail Call – There was nothing requiring action by WTEC.
11. Meeting adjourned 10:00