**Washington Township Environmental Commission (EC)
February 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Merv, Gwen, CJ, Mark, Bill, Val, Kelly, Joe

Start time – 7:35

1. **Approval of January minutes.** Two corrections: Merv spoke with Paul from Winward Environmental (not musconetcong), and the well-testing drop off location is to be the Municipal Building.
2. **Retention Basin Planting.** There’s a lot of surface area to plant in. Mark mentioned the water level was very high, but this was after a heavy storm and snowmelt. Gwen suggested that after the next rainfall, we put stakes at the water level and watch to see how long it takes to drain. Mark said we could still plant the rim. Merv mentioned some plants could handle being underwater occasionally and we could still plant there. Gwen spoke about the different varieties of seeds that they have for different areas that we could choose from. The site is full sun. CJ mentioned we should plant the back corner. Gwen suggested we cover the area soon with plastic to kill existing vegetation. Merv suggested we need to talk to the road department so they know not to mow, and to make sure we don’t add to their maintenance. Bill asked if we should reach out to the neighboring property owners to let them know. CJ will speak to the road department.
3. **Private Well Testing/Sapling distribution event.** The drop off for well testing will be at the WT municipal building.
4. **Stream Sampling.** Merv stated the other lab quoted us $76 a site (as opposed to the approx. $170 at the other lab), if we pick up and drop off the bottles/samples. CJ suggested since we will be saving money, we should test for some more parameters. Merv stated we used to test 32 sites, more parameters, and twice a year. Now we only test for 10 sites, once a year, and fewer parameters. Bill made a made a motion that we switch labs. Merv seconded it, it was approved. Val suggested that on Clean Communities Day we could raise money for the WTEC, Mark was did not believe we were eligible.
5. **Invasives Ordinance**. Merv questions if shade tree has authority to enforce. Draft will be ready for comment at the next meeting, and then in two or three meetings we will vote. Joe explained that the new draft of the ordinance would not be punitive but would be more educational. It would focus on educating the public, restricting developers, and prohibiting sale.
6. **Old Farmers Road School Pesticide spraying.** EC discussed what the alternatives would be. Mark suggested they weed-whack instead of spraying. This request would have to go through the Board of Ed.
7. **HS Stream Testing.** Merv asked if Val or CJ would like to give a presentation to the class. CJ will contact Mr. Lawrence regarding giving a presentation and stream sampling.
8. **Mail Call.** Val requested we get more notice. We will reach out to the township requesting more time to review and more information.
9. **AOB.** Val gave updates on the Green Team: Green team is working on the Covaleski project. The WT Land Trust is putting a trail on this property. On the Columbia Trail there is really tall mugwort and a stretch of knotweed. The green team is talking about contacting the park commission to see if they own that property or if it is a conservation easement. There was talk about clearing it out and planting some native shrubs.

Meeting adjourned 9:08PM.