**Washington Township Environmental Commission (EC)**

**March 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

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

1. Invasive Species ordinance – Joe recommended 2 changes to the ordinance. 1) Add actual list of “do not plant species” – top 10 species 2) Add whereas clause containing language that these plants are a “public nuisance.” The team also discussed and recommended adding a reference to Rutgers weed gallery - <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/weeds/> - CJ to update ordinance and share out to Shade tree commission, Town Engineer Leon. CJ announced he made contact with other local EC’s as well as ANJEC to get their “buy in”.
2. Private well testing – Mark informed the team only 20 kits were sold.

Last year almost 50 kits were sold. The EC agreed for next well test program that we solicit more media coverage e.g., Observer Tribune. It was suggested we use the police station electronic sign to advertise the event for next year. The EC agreed we should list the results on our website. Results to be obtained from Mara by Mark.

1. Stony Brook foaming concern – CJ to contact home owner to ask for sample of foam. EC to contact Chris at health department for follow up.
2. High School Stream Testing - Merv made contact with teachers and a plan is in place. Valerie is scheduled to do a presentation to the class room on Monday May 14th.
3. Conservation Easement assessments – Mark recommended the brochure be sent as is. A cover letter will be included. WTEC feels inspections should be allowed to ensure conservation easements are being properly maintained.
4. Tree seedlings – Gwen reported the free tree seedling program hosted by the Department of Forestry deadline had expired as of February. Gwen mentioned most other communities are coupling their programs with arbor day or earth day, and the WTEC should consider this for next year. Gwen to make note on calendar for next year so that WTEC can apply for seedlings before deadline.
5. Pollinator Retention Basin planting – Ken presented the idea of planting native flowers for pollinators to the planning board. The board wanted a recommendation of what plants the WTEC was favoring to ensure the plants’ roots don’t permeate the basin liner. Ken to follow up with Dr. Keller for reccomendations.
6. AOB - Annual Stream Clean up – Valerie requested for volunteers. April 21st is the Township stream clean up date and May 14th is RHA sponsored clean up date. It was recommended by CJ to focus on the Musconetcong behind Lowes.
7. Nothing notable for action on the mail received by WTEC.

Meeting adjourned 8:45