**Washington Township Environmental Commission (EC)**

**January 4, 2016 Minutes**

Present – CJ Sinko, Valerie Walsh, Merv Haines, Bill Leavens, Greg Forsbrey, Laramie Traina

Start 7:30

1. WTEC Member business
   1. Valerie Walsh steps down as Chair of EC, after 4 years of service. CJ Sinko accepts EC Chair position.
   2. Need to fill open position – possible suggestions – A Green Team member or Anne Marie Harrington.
   3. Reviewed membership roster to make corrections.
2. EC members now part of Green Team as a Ad HOC Committee. Two remaining members of Green Team Gregg Forsbrey and Kevin. Green Team meetings will be held @ 7pm first Monday of the month to coincide with EC.
   1. Kevin or Gregg encouraged to join EC as one full member slot is open.
   2. Gregg suggested having a “bring a friend night” to encourage more people in the community to become active Green Team participants. All were in favor of this idea.
3. Water testing postponed due to fog. Bill and Merv volunteer to do the sampling.
   1. Merv suggests doing all streams in one year. Have the High School students test larger rivers and the EC do smaller stream.
   2. CJ to contact High School to organize testing.
   3. EC considering a stream cleanup day. Need to decide which stream. Do we get grant money to do this? Wear t-shirts to raise awareness?
4. Invasive species
   1. EC discussed possibility of testing soil for Japanese stilt weed before coming into township. Recommended to CJ to contact ANS Consultants to see if feasible.
   2. EC to contact Kathy Smith of the WT Garden Club to get volunteers for an invasive species removal day. Discussed possibility of having girl/boy scouts make this into a project.
   3. EC discussed developing an invasive species brochure which can be either mailed to township residents (via tax notices) or handed out at the Green Festival/Fireworks. The brochure would include pictures of invasive species commonly found in the township so that they can be easily identified and removed by residents or at the least have the option of informing the EC or a designated “strike team”.
   4. Chinese Hogwart – a destructive plant with a highly corrosive sap can lead to permanent skin damage, blindness etc. EC wants to raise awareness of this plant in case it makes its way into WT. Early detection is key to prevent it from spreading.
   5. Bamboo – See it everywhere - can an ordinance be passed to make it illegal to plant?
   6. Bill Leavens – To solicit Andrew Coppola to gain WT support for an ANJEC grant proposal to support the invasive species brochure.

Meeting adjourned 9:00