

## WATCHUNG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### MINUTES

January 22, 2018

**Present:** Sondra Epstein, Rachel Funcheon, Karen Pennett, George Sopko, Joan Tak

**Absent:** Don Pote, Jim and Andy Stout

#### **Call to Order, Minutes:**

November minutes were approved

**Reorganization:** Karen was voted in to remain Chairperson of the Commission. Writing of minutes will be shared among the members. Each member will write up their portion of the meeting and submit to person responsible for minutes that month.

#### **Reports:**

**Recycling:** Rachel reported on 2 new special recycling programs that will be starting soon. One of the programs, sponsored by TerraCycle, is for certain oral hygiene products, like toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes, and their packaging. The other program is the collection of white Styrofoam egg cartons, like Eggland's. The Manager of the Watchung Library offered space in the front lobby for both these bins. Everyone thought that having the bins at the library was an excellent idea, since the bottle cap collection is there and the bins will be inside. It will make participation easier with all the bins in one location. Rachel is trying to find bins with lids that will fit in the allotted space. After the bins are purchased and received, the special recycling will begin.

Recycling of larger white Styrofoam was also discussed. We talked about trying to make this happen, by partnering with Warren. Members thought that Warren collects Styrofoam periodically behind their Municipal Building. Rachel will contact them. George suggested to put a large dumpster somewhere in town that could be used for this. When the bins are filled, DPW could take it to FoamPack, in Springfield, the Styrofoam recycle center.

**Spring News Letter:** Rachel and Joan will write articles for the Spring News Letter. Joan will write about bees and also about the use of Roundup and the natural alternative that residents can make. Rachel will write about the new recycling programs.

**Planning Board:** Karen reported that the theatre was approved. The Theater will be on the south east corner of Terrill and Rt. 22 where Sears Automotive was.

**Tree Report: December 2017 and January 2018:** Sondra reported

\*99 Tuttle Road, 11/31/2017 new house construction. This was a second visit. The builder wants to take down two more large trees. One is within the house box the other was about 21 feet away. The builder had not protected the other trees on the property having run trucks over the soil underneath them , Remove 2 replace 1 at 4 ½ "

\*675-679 Mountain Blvd, 11/31/2017 :Remove 10 dead trees. One large ash and 9 elm.

\*36 Valley View Road, 01/18/2018, tear down new construction, second application remove 8 live trees.  
7 Close to house foundation, replace 1 at 4"

\*30 Shawnee Drive, 01/18/2018, remove 7 dead trees

Respectfully submitted  
Karen Pennett