

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014**

The West Reading Planning Commission met for their regular meeting on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chair Philip Wert, Christin Kelley, Terry Siggins, and Deborah Hutcheson. Kim Collins, Vice Chair Christopher Lincoln and Maxine Goodwin were unable to attend.

**VISITORS:** none

Mr. Wert called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

**ORDINANCE REVIEW**

It was decided that the Commission would continue with the review of Chapter I at the next meeting when more Commission members are available.

**SUSTAINABLE PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY CERTIFICATION**

Mr. Wert distributed a copy of the Community Certification document which provides a means of recognizing local governments in Pennsylvania with respect to sustainability. He explained that the Environmental Advisory Committee has worked on it for about the last three months with the intention of using it as a 'report card' for the Borough. In order to be recognized with a certification level, documentation must be made available that validates the requirements. This was discussed at length, particularly about whether we are capable of fulfilling the criteria because it requires providing web links to 50% of the affirmative responses that are submitted. Mrs. Hoffman will check into this further to see exactly what needs to be done to meet the criteria and obtain the designation.

**ANIMAL ORDINANCE REVIEW**

Mr. Wert provided a draft of the proposed changes for the animal ordinance, which includes the changes suggested by Chris Lincoln. Mr. Wert also contacted the Pennsylvania State Bee Keepers Association for more information and they recommended the ordinance from the Borough of Forest Hills, PA which is an urban area of approximately 6500 residents just outside of Pittsburgh.

Also of concern was the discussion on snakes. The proposed language states poisonous snakes however there are other types that should be prohibited. It was suggested that 'deadly' be included in the description.

Much discussion ensued about the proposed changes in general, and bees and chickens in particular. Mr. Siggins felt that because this is a major departure, it needs to be well advertised to ensure that all residents are aware of it and can weigh in on the matter.

Mrs. Hoffman will incorporate all of the proposed amendment sections into an ordinance format which will be distributed to Council prior to the next Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman  
Administrative Assistant