
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

500 Chestnut Street
West Reading, PA 19611
610-374-8273
E-mail: eac@westreadingborough.org



MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2022

Members Present

Chairperson Patrick Kaag, Samantha Kaag, Ryan Lineaweaver, Jim Keller, Nicole Phillips, Dean Murray Borough Manager

Visitors

Paige West, Maureen Hasty, and Natalie Paschket

Call to Order

Mr. Kaag called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Ms. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Lineaweaver to approve the minutes of February 28, 2022. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Ms. Hasty recommended that a public works truck be available at different locations in the borough on a weekend to collect yard waste. This would help residents who don't want to load wet yard waste into their car to take to the borough garage. Mr. Murray pointed out that this would be a good idea as long as residents don't utilize the truck for items that are not considered yard waste. Mr. Kaag suggested making quadrants so that the truck could park in different areas of the borough each month. Ms. Phillips suggested having the truck be available on a separate weekend than the regular yard waste pickup. Ms. Kaag suggested discussing this idea a little more and coming up with a full plan before taking this idea to the Borough Council.

Ms. Hasty suggested having a borough wide buy nothing yard sale. Residents can put out items that they no longer want or need for other residents to come and take. She suggested having one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Ms. Hasty also inquired about having something for community composting. Ms. Kaag stated that this is currently being looked into by the West Reading Community Garden. Mr. Lineaweaver reminded everyone that the biggest issue with composting is finding people who are willing to come and turn it over on a regular basis.

BBB First Monthly Clean Up

Mr. Kaag stated that the first BBB clean up was very successful. Lot of residents came out on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to clean up the borough. Ms. Kaag suggested doing the next BBB clean up on the same weekend as Earth Day. Mr. Murray suggested parking a public works truck in an area for people to utilize for the BBB clean up. Ms. Kaag mentioned that people might try to utilize the truck for bigger items instead of just yard waste. Ms. Kaag mentioned that she made an event on Facebook

for the Earth Day Clean up and that Paige West has made flyers to hand out to the businesses in West Reading. This will help to promote the event.

West Reading Volunteer Facebook Page

Mr. Kaag shared that a West Reading volunteer Facebook page has been created. This page can be utilized by anyone who is looking to volunteer or looking for volunteers for an event.

Rotary Club Tree Planting

Mr. Kaag reminded everyone that next month will be the Wyomissing Rotary Club tree planting event. The event will take place on Saturday April 30th and is a volunteer event that anyone can attend. Mr. Kaag stated that he will post the information about this event on the West Reading volunteer Facebook page.

Healing the Planet Grant Program

Mr. Kaag shared the Healing the Planet Grant Program from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. The grant application will be opened from April 1st to 4pm on April 28th. Mr. Kaag suggested that we utilize this grant for stream bank restoration and erosion control. Ms. Kaag suggested applying for a grant to rebuild the bridge by the West Reading pool. Mr. Kaag noted that bridges or anything for recreation are not covered by this grant. Mr. Murray announced that the Rotary Club is discussing rebuilding that bridge as a project. Mr. Kaag suggested having the grant proposal ready by the next EAC meeting on April 25th. Mr. Keller suggested using the grant for health and water quantity and monitoring. Ms. Kaag reminded the EAC members that we can apply for two different grants.

MS4 Involvement

Mr. Kaag informed everyone that public education is part of MS4. He stated that mentioning it during council meetings helps the borough move towards getting their MS4. Ms. Kaag stated that this could help the borough to get more grants. Mr. Murray reminded everyone that there is literature and magnets in the borough hall about the MS4 program.

Final Comments

Ms. Kaag suggested that at the next meeting we discuss an electronic recycling program for the borough.

Public Comment

Ms. Hasty asked if there has been any thought to reducing the amount of paved areas in the borough to help with erosion. Mr. Lineaweaver stated that this is a zoning issue. Mr. Murray mentioned that there are some ideas being discussed to add more green space.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Keller and seconded by Ms. Kaag to adjourn the meeting at 6:44p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Phillips
EAC Member