
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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MEETING MINUTES

April 25, 2022

Members Present

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

Visitors

Paige West and Zachary Shaver

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

Ms. West stated that she would like to be considered for the open position on the EAC. She has been interning with some of the council members. Mr. Kaag stated that she had turned in her letter of interest on April 24th 2022.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Lineaweaver and seconded by Mr. Keller to approve the minutes of March 28, 2022. Motion carried.

Amendment to Agenda

Mr. Kaag recommended that the agenda be amended to include discussing a recommendation to utilize green space for the West Reading Community Garden. Moved by Mr. Keller seconded by Mr. Lineaweaver. Motion Carried.

Mr. Kaag stated that the community garden is potentially going to be moved to the area next to the firehouse. Mr. Murray stated that Met-Ed will be looking at the area to see if there are any power lines that would cause an issue for this project. Ms. Kaag explained that the current space is too big for what the community garden needs at this point. She also mentioned that it is hard to maintain due to the lack of shade and the hazard from the grass built up on the hill. Ms. Kaag also noted that the current community garden is on a leased property in which the lease is not in the garden's favor. Ms. Kaag stated that if the garden was moved to a borough owned property more could be done in investing in the garden. Mr. Kaag asked if any EAC members have any ideas or reasons that recommending this as a green space to the council would or wouldn't be a good idea. Mr. Murray reminded everyone that when Linden Lane and part of Playground Drive were first built that was the original site for a community garden. Mr. Kaag requested a motion to recommend the green space between the fire company and the railroad tracks be approved for use for a community garden based on the EAC recommendation. Moved by Mr. Keller and seconded by Mr. Murray. Motion carried with Ms. Kaag abstaining.

BBB Clean up

Mr. Kaag stated that the second BBB clean up which took place from Friday April 22nd to Sunday April 24th was successful. He suggested we approve a date for the BBB clean up for both May and June.

Ms. Kaag suggested the 13th-15th of May and the 24th – 26th of June. A motion was made by Ms. Phillips to have the BBB clean up for May be from the 13th-15th and for June's clean up to be from the 24th-26th it was seconded by Ms. Kaag. Motion carried.

Earth Day Clean Up

Mr. Kaag noted that the Earth Day clean up that took place on the 24th of April was very successful. He stated that there were about 30 volunteers and close to 500lbs of trash collected.

West Reading Volunteers

Mr. Kaag informed the EAC that a tent was setup over the weekend at the West Reading Beer and Pretzel Festival for the West Reading volunteers' group. The tent was set up to explain what type of volunteer options are available in West Reading and how to get more involved.

Rotary Club Tree Planting

Mr. Kaag shared that he will be creating a post for volunteers to sign up for the Wyomissing Rotary Club tree planting event. The event takes place on Saturday April 30th from 9:30am -12pm. Mr. Kaag stated that the Rotary Club is looking for volunteers to help plant trees along the south bank of the creek. This will help prevent erosion along the creek.

Healing the Planet Grant Proposal

Mr. Kaag requested that someone from the EAC help him write two different sections of the grant proposal. He asked for help with stating what the borough's mission is along with the EAC's mission Mr. Lineaweaver volunteered to help with the grant proposal. Mr. Kaag reminded the EAC that the grant will be utilized to remove four trees that have fallen into the creek and add some large rock. This will help prevent further erosion along the creek bank. Mr. Kaag stated that the EAC will be applying for the \$10,000 grant for this project.

MS4

Mr. Kaag requested that someone make a Facebook post for the EAC to discuss being mindful of pet waste and vehicle fluids being left on the ground.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Lineaweaver and seconded by Ms. Kaag to adjourn the meeting at 6:31p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Phillips
EAC Member