
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2024

Members Present

Chairperson Patrick Kaag, Nicole Weik, Samantha Kaag, Bethany Bower

Workshop Meeting

Mr. Kaag stated that since we didn't have enough members to have a full meeting we could have a workshop to discuss items that were on the agenda.

Palmer Memorial Garden

Mr. Kaag brought up that the garden needs to be winterized. He suggested that if anyone has any experience with gardening and would like to help either weed/clean the garden or winterize it to please do so. Ms. Bowers recommended that we leave the garden as it is for the winter.

Community Garden

Mr. Kaag mentioned that they are looking into the land use agreement. He also stated that he found another memorial in the ground at the new community garden space. He mentioned that he is still looking to ensure that all the memorials are found. Mr. Kaag also stated that he made a list of all the items that are currently in the shed so that other groups/committees can utilize the items.

Neighborhood Assistance

Mr. Kaag shared that a group of a few people helped a West Reading resident with the maintenance of their yard. This was a resident that was having an issue keeping up with the yard. He mentioned that this will be done in phases with small groups of people for only an hour or two at a time. Ms. Weik mentioned that this is a good idea as it can be hard to find people who can dedicate a whole day to volunteering. Ms. Bowers asked that moving forward the EAC members be contacted for these events. She also mentioned that she created a Google Form for volunteers to fill out. The form asks for contact information, availability, and what type of volunteering they would be interested in. Ms. Weik suggested posting this on multiple accounts on Facebook to make sure people are aware who maybe interested.

Greater Reading Urban Agriculture Meeting

Mr. Kaag mentioned that he attended the Greater Reading Urban Agricultural meeting which allowed him to see what other communities in the area are doing.

433 Penn Ave.

Mr. Kaag shared that they are doing environmental assessments for the gas station on Penn Ave and that they got certification for the tank removals.

Municipal Energy Grant

Mr. Kaag shared that West Reading won a fifty thousand dollar grant for a company to come audit the municipal buildings. This audit would state where energy savings could be made. Ms. Weik asked if the grant was to fix these items or just for the audit. Mr. Kaag stated that it will only cover the audit and then we can

apply for other grants to cover the changes that need to be made.

Monthly MS4

Mr. Kaag stated that the annual municipal separate storm sewer system report is now available.

Global Update

Mr. Kaag shared that the auroras that have been seen in our area are due to increased solar activity.

Community Garden Update Continued

Ms. Kaag stated that she is looking into the community garden contracts. She also stated that she is in the process of moving the EAC back under the borough.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Weik

EAC Member