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# West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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## MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2025

### Members Present

Chairperson Patrick Kaag, Nicole Weik, Samantha Kaag, Jean Witmer

### Call to Order

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

### Approval of Minutes

Moved by Ms. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Witmer to approve the minutes of October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Motion Carried.

### Memorial Garden Updates

Ms. Kaag stated that she is working with the school district to fund the Delaney memorial move. The Borough has already approved the move of the memorial. Ms. Kaag mentioned that she is also working with New Castle Lawn and Landscape to design the new veterans memorial. She also mentioned that it will be dedicated to all the veterans of West Reading and not have any specific names listed on the memorial. Ms. Kaag mentioned that there is a grant from Senator Judy Schwank's office for parks and she would like to look into applying for the grant. Ms. Witmer asked where the Delaney memorial and the veterans memorial will be located. Ms. Kaag stated that the Delaney memorial will be moved to right outside the West Reading pool and the veterans memorial will be moved near the track.

Mr. Kaag stated that he would like to look into the inventory and maintenance needed for the Palmer memorial garden. Ms. Kaag mentioned that she believes New Castle Lawn and Landscape had stated that they would take care of that for the first year.

### BBB Program

Mr. Kaag shared how a previous mayor used to walk around with a bucket and collect trash. This program is based off that idea where once a month residents can walk around the area with a small bucket and collect trash. Mr. Kaag suggested that each month this program could focus on a different part of the borough. Ms. Kaag stated that she didn't agree that a specific area should be given and residents could choose where and when to go out and clean the borough. She suggested that we only have this program take place from April to December due to weather. Ms. Weik mentioned that there are areas that don't get as much attention during the Spring and Fall cleanup and this is a good way for other areas to get cleaned up. Ms. Witmer asked how this idea can be advertised. Ms. Weik suggested advertising it in the West Reading magazine. Ms. Kaag mentioned that it will be posted on the EAC Facebook page as well.

Ms. Witmer mentioned that a lot of trash happen to accumulate outside the local restaurants and bars. Ms. Kaag suggested talking to the codes department about having a conversation with the owners to put out trash cans.

### **Community Garden Update**

Ms. Kaag mentioned that there is no update as we are still waiting on guidance from the WCRF. She also stated that she is reaching out to previous garden members to gauge what the interest level would be for the new garden. Mr. Kaag mentioned that the shed has been emptied.

### **Neighborhood Assistance Update**

Ms. Kaag shared that last year the EAC assisted a resident who had multiple codes violations for their yard but was not able to correct the issue. Ms. Kaag also shared that she would like to start a list of volunteers who can help clear snow from elderly residents walkways. She mentioned that she would like to pair these two programs together and maintain a list of volunteers. Mr. Kaag suggested that volunteers should be signing liability waivers for the benefit of both the volunteer and the home owner.

### **433 Penn Ave.**

Mr. Kaag shared that phase 1 of the environmental testing is completed. Soil samples have been taken and the tanks will be removed soon.

### **Free Market**

Mr. Kaag stated that he would like us to pick dates for the 2025 free markets. Ms. Kaag suggested that we do April 13<sup>th</sup> and September 21<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Weik mentioned that Fall Fest is the weekend of September 21<sup>st</sup> as well as the community yard sale. Ms. Kaag suggested that September 28<sup>th</sup> be the free market. Motion made by Ms. Kaag to have the free markets be on April 13<sup>th</sup> and September 28<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Ms. Weik. Motion carried.

### **Borough Cleanups for 2025**

Mr. Kaag mentioned that he would like to pick dates for the 2025 borough clean ups. He suggested April 19<sup>th</sup> and September 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am to 2pm. Ms. Weik made a motion to have the clean up dates be April 19<sup>th</sup> and September 21<sup>st</sup>. Seconded by Ms. Witmer. Motion carried.

### **Monthly MS4**

Mr. Kaag shared that residents are racking the leaves into the street and it is clogging the storm drains. Ms. Kaag stated that sticks can cause damage to the street sweeper. She stated that ideally residents should bag their leaves and take them down to public works or not rake them. Ms. Weik suggested that we post about proper leaf removal on the EAC Facebook page during the fall.

### **Global Update**

Mr. Kaag shared that a lot more homes are now qualified for wildfire risk which can cause insurance costs to go up.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Ms. Weik and seconded by Ms. Kaag to adjourn the meeting at 6:53p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicole Weik  
EAC Member