
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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MEETING MINUTES July 22, 2019

Members Present

Chairperson Jenna Hiester; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Residents Ryan Lineaweaver, Jim Keller and Samantha Kaag; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

Call to Order

Chairperson Jenna Hiester called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. and welcomed Mrs. Kaag to the Environmental Advisory Council.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Keller to approve the minutes of May 20, 2019. Motion carried. It was noted that the July 22, 2019 workshop minutes, due to the lack of a quorum, would not need approval.

DCNR Tree Inventory – Mrs. Madeira provided an update on the Borough tree inventory currently being performed by 14 volunteers from the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps along with leaders from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) through a grant awarded by TreeVitalize Pennsylvania. The information being provided will help establish a program to plant, maintain and manage public shade trees.

Community Garden:

- **Garden Social** – The July 11th potluck social event was cancelled due to weather conditions. It was suggested to plan a harvest type party at the end of the season to encourage fall cleanup of the garden. Guests would be requested to provide a dish to share, a beverage, plate, utensils and chair.
- **Project Update** – Mr. Kaag stated that repairs have been completed to the stairway.
- **Land Use Agreement** – Ms. Hiester noted that the current land use agreement will expire on August 31, 2019, and an updated land use agreement is needed between the owner of the property and the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation. Also, permission is needed to create a community themed mural on the wall facing the garden.
- **Insect Control** – A number of gardeners reported an insect issue at the garden and various plant species were discussed to help control the insect population next season, such as lemongrass and marigolds.
- **Playground Group Project** – It was noted during the recent Council meeting by the Recreation Director that the playground group enjoyed their activity and visit to the Community Garden and was open to additional events. Ms. Hiester will coordinate another date with the Playground Manager to paint and place additional rocks in the newly created rock garden.

Yard Waste Drop-Off – Council approved the 1st Saturday of the month as a resident yard waste drop off at the Borough garage from 9am to Noon during the months of August through December. The first event will be held on August 3rd.

Fall Cleanup – Ms. Hiester noted the September 29th fall cleanup date, which is coordinated with the Keep PA Beautiful International Coastal Cleanup and the final Concert in the Park event. Keep PA Beautiful will provide the supplies, and contact has been made with the Recreation Director to plan the activity from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Update from Council – Mr. Kaag noted that 41 trees are currently being planted around the Borough and tree bands are being replaced as needed. It was also noted that a fungus has been found that attacks the spotted lanternfly, which seems to have reduced the number of lanternflies in our area.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 26, 2019 at 6:15PM