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# West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

500 Chestnut Street  
West Reading, PA 19611  
610-374-8273

E-mail: [eac@westreadingborough.org](mailto:eac@westreadingborough.org)



## MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2020

### Members Present

Chairperson Jenna Hiester; Council Members Patrick Kaag and Samantha Kaag; Resident Jim Keller and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Ryan Lineaweaver was unable to attend.

### Call to Order

Chairperson Jenna Hiester called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Keller and seconded by Mrs. Kaag to approve the minutes of January 27, 2020. Motion carried.

### Community Garden

- **Land Use Agreement** - A copy of the signed land use agreement has not yet been received; however, the Borough Manager did obtain verbal approval from the owner of the land for the 2020 gardening season.
- **Manager** – Patrick Kaag has volunteered to manage the Community Garden this year to allow Ms. Hiester time to focus her attention on the EAC meetings and Earth Day tasks. Following a review of another local municipality's community garden cost per box, it was decided to increase the plot fees. Mr. Kaag plans to make some minor improvements to the garden this year due to the unknown foreseeable future of the allowed land use. Promotion of the community garden will begin soon via Facebook, the Borough website and newsletter.

**Earth Day 2020** – The following various tasks associated with hosting the Sunday, April 19, 2020 Earth Day event were discussed:

- **Supplies** – Mr. Keller volunteered to obtain supplies from the 5<sup>th</sup> Street PennDOT office.
- **Refreshments** – Coordination of obtaining and gathering food/drink items for the event would be requested of Mr. Lineaweaver.
- **Raffle Prizes** – Ms. Hiester plans to provide a press release and gather donations from various local businesses.
- **Children Activities** – The Recreation Commission will provide educational, kid friendly activities at the Pavilion area.
- **Electronic Recycling** – Transportation of electronic items to iGreen is needed.

**2020 EAC Network Conference** – Mr. Keller plans to attend the annual EAC Network Conference that will be held on May 2, 2020 and share the information gathered with the committee at a subsequent meeting.

**Update from Council** – It was recommended to allow one person to attend training events and share the information with committee members in order to reduce costs.

**EAC Memberships** – It was noted that a majority of the EAC budget goes toward various membership fees. The Alliance for Community Trees has provided a membership renewal request at a cost of \$125, which is half of the EAC budget. Mrs. Kaag will research the benefits of this membership and noted that funds are needed for public outreach and sustainability items.

**EAC Meetings** – It was suggested to reduce the number of meetings held during the busier Community Garden and Earth Day months if there are no pressing topics to discuss. This will be decided on a month-to-month basis.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:15PM**