
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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MEETING MINUTES

July 27, 2020

Members Present

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

Call to Order

Chairperson Jenna Hiester called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Keller to approve the minutes of February 24, 2020. Motion carried.

Community Garden – Mr. Kaag provided the following update as to the status of the Community Garden:

- The garden is operating at approximately a 90% capacity.
- Fees were waived for new participants following the pandemic stay-at-home order.
- Volunteers have been maintaining the grounds. However, a larger cleanup is needed to address the vacant beds. It was recommended to request the Public Works Department to provide a truck for a larger cleanup of the garden, while maintaining social distancing.

Earth Day 2020 – Ms. Hiester announced that the Earth Day cleanup has been postponed to the fall International Coastal Cleanup due to the pandemic. The Recreation Department has expressed an interest in supporting this event with children activities. A tentative date of Sunday, October 4, 2020 has been reserved for the cleanup. Due to a recent request to reserve the Pavilion for a private party on this date it was noted that the meeting place could be established at the Community Garden with a canopy type tent in case of rain. Mr. Kaag will ensure that PennDOT is requested to mow the cloverleaf area, request the Public Works Department to provide a truck for this event and request Mr. Moletress to transport electronic devices to the recycling center. Ms. Hiester will coordinate efforts with Penn Avenue business owners.

Alliance for Community Trees – Ms. Hiester announced that the Arbor Day Foundation program, Alliance for Community Trees, has allowed the Borough to be a member for the 2020 calendar year at no charge and encouraged members to view their educational opportunities.

Environmental Advisory Council Enabling Ordinance – Amendments to the existing Environmental Advisory Council enabling ordinance were discussed. It was recommended to provide a Vice Chairperson for this Council should the Chairperson be unable to attend a meeting and to increase the membership from five residents to six residents to better facilitate decisions affecting environmental resources within the community. Ms. Hiester noted her desire to step down as Chairperson in the near future to allow someone who has more time and/or skills to dedicate to advancing the environmental needs of the community.

Update from Council – There were no notable updates from Borough Council. Ms. Hiester expressed a desire for the Environmental Advisory Council to connect with the Recreation Department's fall activities. It was uncertain as to whether there would be fall activities scheduled this year due to the pandemic.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 24, 2020 at 6:00PM