
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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MEETING MINUTES

October 26, 2020

Members Present

Chairperson Jenna Hiester; Council Members Patrick Kaag, and Ryan Lineaweaver; Resident Brian Adams; Borough Manager Nicholas Imbesi

Visitors

None

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Lineaweaver and seconded by Mr. Adams to approve the minutes of September 28, 2020. Motion carried.

Recycling Drive

Mr. Adams shared highlights regarding the recent recycling drive:

- Mr. Adams shared that the drive was extended for a week due to the Borough Hall being closed temporarily due to a potential COVID-19 exposure. He shared there were over 200 pieces recycled so far and that the turnout was great.
- Mr. Adams spoke with Mr. Murray about moving forward. It was discussed to do this type of drive on a quarterly basis. Feedback was asked about this idea. It was noted by Ms. Hiester that this could be done in conjunction with the bi-annual clean up events. There was agreement on this idea. Mr. Kaag was happy about the turnout and believes the program should continue.
- Ms. Hiester said that more research for additional drop off areas should be done. Mr. Lineaweaver shared the Berks County Electronic Recycling program with the committee.
- Mr. Adams would like to do more educational outreach to residents concerning electronic recycling when there are items dropped off in alley's or people's yards.

Community Garden

- Ms. Hiester said there is a duplicate Facebook page for the Community Garden and urged members to tag the right page. She informed the committee that she tried to take ownership of the page but Facebook would not allow her to claim it.
- Mr. Adams encouraged all members to invite their Facebook friends to like the EAC page and the Community Garden page. It was noted that the page likes have increased by 583% since sharing it with friends.
- Winterizing of the garden will be taking place in the next few weeks. This will include another cutting of the grass, some simple maintenance items, and weed-whacking.
- The conversation continued on finding a new location for the garden on Borough owned land.
- Mr. Adams confirmed that Lowes will be making the following donations to the community garden: A shed; eighteen 2X10 boards for garden boxes; paint for a new mural; a picnic set; and a bench.

New Business

- Ms. Hiester shared that she has been doing some research into grants offered by the DCNR, but shared that these grants usually do not go to EAC, but rather to parks and recreation programs. For this reason, she is going to place this on the back burner.

Fishing Dock

- Mr. Adams shared that he has been talking to the Schuylkill River green ways NHA group about the fishing dock. They are very interested in helping the Borough to revitalize the dock area at no cost to the Borough. Mr. Adams is currently trying to schedule a Zoom call with the executive director of the group.

Patrick Kaag departed the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

- There was a brief discussion on the Ready for 100 program and seeing if it was worth our time to revisit the topic. It was noted that committee members should study the program so it can be discussed next month.

Update from Council

No update at this time.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 16, 2020 at 6:00PM