
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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MEETING MINUTES December 16, 2020

Members Present

Chairperson Jenna Hiester; Council Members Patrick Kaag, Samantha Kaag and Ryan Lineaweaver; Resident Brian Adams, Jim Keller and Nicole Phillips; Borough Manager Nicholas Imbesi; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira

Visitors

Allen Heist, Resident

Call to Order

Jenna Hiester called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Lineaweaver and seconded by Mr. Adams to approve the minutes of November 16, 2020. Motion carried.

Community Garden Update

Mr. Kaag reported that the garden is now closed for the season. The items donated by Lowe's should be arriving next week, which includes a shed, benches, wood to repair garden beds, garden lighting and paint for a mural.

Mr. Kaag made a recommendation to appoint Brian Adams as the Community Garden Manager. Moved by Ms. Hiester and seconded by Mr. Kaag to appoint Brian Adams as the Community Garden Manager. Motion carried. It was recommended that changes to the garden be discussed with both this committee and the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation prior to taking action.

Reading for 100 Initiative

Ms. Hiester requested members to visit the campaign roadmap website to create an account, attend a welcome webinar and explore the activist toolkit for discussion next month.

Annual Report to Borough Council

Mr. Kaag shared a draft annual report with the committee and requested feedback. It was recommended to include the following items in the report:

- Events that were cancelled due to the pandemic;
- Increased social media engagement;
- Enabling Ordinance Amendment;
- I-Green waiver of fees to recycle electronic items;
- Number of volunteers that participated in the cleanup event, including Kanger Water's participation and community engagement;
- Include a list of EAC member contact information.

Mr. Kaag thanked everyone for their comments and plans to present the annual report to Borough Council during the January meeting. In the future this report will be provided to Borough Council during the December meeting.

Chairperson & Vice Chairperson

Mr. Kaag noted Ms. Hiester's desire to stepdown as Chairperson and requested a motion to elect a new Chairperson. Moved by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Kaag. Motion carried.

Mr. Adams nominated himself as Chairperson and Mr. Keller seconded the motion. **In favor of the motion:** Mr. Keller and Ms. Hiester. **Against the motion:** Mr. Lineaweaver, Ms. Kaag and Mr. Kaag. **Motion failed 3-2.**

Mr. Lineaweaver noted the importance of having a member of Borough Council as a Chairperson and nominated Mr. Kaag, Ms. Kaag seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Hiester nominated Mr. Adams as Vice Chairperson. The necessity to appoint a Vice Chairperson was questioned and decided to make this appointment should the Chairperson be unable to attend a meeting. Moved by Ms. Hiester and seconded by Ms. Kaag to appoint Brian Adams as Vice Chairperson. Motion carried.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 25, 2021 at 6:00PM