
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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MEETING MINUTES

April 26, 2021

Members Present

Chairperson Patrick Kaag, Jenna Hiester, Nicholas Imbesi, Samantha Kaag, Ryan Lineaweaver, Jim Keller, Associate Member Nicole Phillips, Associate Member Yahaira Castillo

Visitors

Zachary Shaver, Resident

Call to Order

Mr. Kaag called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Kaag started the meeting by discussing how discrimination and intolerant behavior will not be tolerated by council, borough employees, committees, or commissions. He stated that on this council we represent West Reading and we will and should hold ourselves to a higher standard. These meeting will continue to be free of discrimination and hate.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Lineaweaver and seconded by Mr. Keller to approve the minutes of March 22, 2021.
Motion carried.

West Reading Spring Clean Up

The Earth Day clean up was postponed on April 27th due to bad weather. Mr. Kaag suggested that we move the date to May 16th and let council know that Helen Moyer indicated that the pavilion will be available for that date as well. All council members agreed that the clean up will take place on May 16th from 10am-2pm at the pavilion.

Ms. Kaag will be taking point for the Earth day clean up and she is looking into us teaming up with other communities and organizations. Ms. Heister suggested reaching out to some youth organizations such as different Scout Troops and the Youth Volunteer Core. Mr. Lineaweaver reminded everyone that the entire clover leaf is part of West Reading and it would be helpful to have extra people to tackle that area. Ms. Kaag suggested that we promote the fact that participating in the clean up can go towards community service hours for people.

Due to the continued Covid-19 pandemic Ms. Kaag has someone who is willing to come and disinfect the pavilion and all the equipment ahead of time. Since the clean up will no longer take place on Earth Day Ms. Kaag recommended that we change the name to West Reading spring clean up.

Solar Project Update

Mr. Imbesi provided Mr. Keller with some of the borough's utility bills. Mr. Keller suggested that he start looking into a green energy supplier for the borough to use instead of our current energy supplier. The price to beat is \$5.22 cents per kWh which is the relatively consistent throughout all the

borough properties.

RRS Electronic Recycling Service Update

This program is located in Kutztown and the pickup locations are not close to West Reading. Ms. Kaag found another option, the Berks County Recycling Center, which is located in Leesport. This program is open to all Berks County Residents. Ms. Kaag recommended that we promote this program within West Reading by making an informative flyer for residents.

Green Space Inventory Update

Mr. Keller and Ms. Castillo are going to work together to make a map or list of green space available within the borough.

Trash Recycling Contract Update

Ms. Kaag is looking into what other municipalities did for their trash and recycling contracts. The Berks County Recycling Center is holding a household hazardous waste event in October. Ms. Kaag recommended that we team up with this event for the West Reading fall clean up. Mr. Imbesi reminded everyone that the current trash and recycling contract expires at the end of this year giving the borough more options.

Mr. Lineaweaver informed the council that he is looking into different composting options to help reduce the trash and recycling weight. Mr. Lineaweaver suggested that we educate and inform the West Reading residents about the proper trash/recycling procedures as well as some of the other programs they can utilize. This will help lower the trash weight being hauled away which could possibly lower the cost of the contract.

Ms. Castillo asked how we can stop the people from mixing their recycling and trash together. Mr. Imbesi reminded everyone that the trash haulers have been given informational flyers that they can leave for a house that is not following the proper protocols. There is also no ordinance that allows residents to be cited if they put recycling and trash out at the same time. Mr. Lineaweaver suggested we do an education week on the EAC page as well as on the Voices of West Reading Facebook page.

Ms. Heister provided a few links for everyone to utilize:

<https://www.epa.gov/americarecycles>
<https://www.epa.gov/americarecycles/forms/america-recycles-pledge>
<https://kab.org/events/america-recycles-day/>

Public Comment

Mr. Shaver volunteered his truck for anyone that might need help hauling big items.

Adjournment

Moved by Ms. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Keller to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Phillips
Associate Member