
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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MEETING MINUTES

May 24, 2021

Members Present

Chairperson Patrick Kaag, Brian Adams, Jenna Hiester, Samantha Kaag, Ryan Lineaweaver, Jim Keller, Associate Member Nicole Phillips, Associate Member Jay Santo Domingo, Dean Murray, Interim Borough Manager

Visitors

Zachary Shaver, Resident Benjamin Will, Resident

Call to Order

Mr. Kaag called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Keller and seconded by Ms. Kaag to approve the minutes of April 26, 2021. Motion carried.

West Reading Spring Clean Up Outcome

Mr. Kaag gave a summary of the results and outcome of the West Reading Spring Clean Up that took place on May 16th. There were 13 total volunteers that worked from 10am -2pm all across the borough. Some of the areas that were cleaned were the cloverleaf, the parks, Delaney's Circle and Penn Ave. It was estimated that at least 30 bags were filled and collected by volunteers bringing in at least 450lbs of trash. Mr. Kaag thanked all of the volunteers for coming out and participating.

Solar Project Update

Mr. Keller has contacted ADP Energy to discuss some of the renewable energy programs that they offer. ADP Energy needs an email from an official borough email address before they can release any information. Mr. Keller is looking to see if they can beat the current price the borough pays of 5.22 cents per kWh.

Green Space Inventory Update

Ms. Heister suggested that a list of green spaces might have already been started at some point in the past. She suggested that we check before starting from scratch. Mr. Keller requested access to the map that is hanging in borough hall to help locate any green space in the borough.

Trash Recycling Contract Update

Mr. Kaag announced that the current trash and recycling contract is not actually up until December 2022 not 2021 like previously thought. This allows the EAC time to do some research to see what other options the borough has for trash and recycling in the future.

EAC Reorganization

Moved by Mr. Lineaweaver to reorganize the EAC and seconded by Ms. Kaag. Ms. Kaag nominated Mr. Kaag to stay as Chairperson of the EAC and seconded by Mr. Keller. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mr. Lineaweaver to leave the Vice Chairperson position vacant and seconded by Ms. Kaag. **In favor of the motion:** Mr. Lineaweaver, Ms. Kaag, Mr. Keller, and Mr. Kaag. **Against the motion:** Mr. Adams and Ms. Hiester. **Abstained:** Dean Murray. **Motion passed 4-2.**

Mr. Lineaweaver expressed his reasoning for making the motion to reorganize the EAC. He stated that the EAC had voted in December to have zero oversight over the West Reading Community Garden but is still listed on the registration forms as the highest governing authority. The EAC is not listed under the liability release meaning potentially the EAC and the members of the EAC could be liable for any issues occurring within the garden. There have been multiple complaints about the garden brought to borough council members from garden members. Mr. Lineaweaver stated that some of the garden plots are covered in weeds, the grass has not been mowed, the tools have been left out in the sun and rain. Mr. Lineaweaver also mentioned that the former EAC Vice Chairperson did not attend the West Reading Spring Clean Up. Ms. Kaag reminded the EAC members that no other council has a Vice Chairperson.

Adjournment

Moved by Ms. Heister and seconded by Ms. Kaag to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Phillips
Associate Member