

---

## West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

500 Chestnut Street  
West Reading, PA 19611  
610-374-8273  
E-mail: [eac@westreadingborough.org](mailto:eac@westreadingborough.org)



### MEETING MINUTES

August 23, 2021

#### Members Present

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

#### Call to Order

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

#### Approval of Minutes

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

#### Renewable Energy Project

Mr. Keller announced that IGS is in the process of contacting the borough's current supplier. He stated that he will update the council next month on the information they provide. Ms. Hiester offered to help with applying for any grants that could be used for the solar panel project. Ms. Kaag stated that Chad Moyer also volunteered to help with applying for any grant proposals. Mr. Kaag suggested that if the borough could switch over to green energy that could help with any future grant proposals.

#### Delaware Plastic Ban

Mr. Kaag informed the council that Delaware currently has a plastic bag ban. He also informed the council that in 2019 Pennsylvania banned municipalities from enacting a ban on plastic bags and other single use items. The ban in Pennsylvania ends at the end of 2021 and it will not be extended. Mr. Kaag suggested that we should look into banning plastic bags and other single use items once this ban is lifted. Mr. Adams announced that the CRF is possibly working on tote bags to help eliminate plastic bag usage on Penn Avenue. Mr. Kaag stated that he is going to do some research on the subject of plastic bans and how West Reading could go about banning plastic bags in the future. Ms. Kaag suggested that businesses on Penn Avenue could donate to get their logo or name on the CRF totes. This would help offset the cost while also being a marketing opportunity for the businesses. Ms. Hiester announced that Philadelphia will be starting their plastic bag ban in April 2022.

Mr. Adams suggested that we set up different types of recycling cans for Fall Feast this year. Mr. Murray stated that we tried that a few years ago but it did not work. People didn't pay attention to the different types of trash and recycling cans and filled them all with trash. Mr. Lineaweaver reminded everyone that the cups given out at Fall Feast are normally single use and are not

recyclable unless rinsed first.

#### **Petroleum Eating Fungus**

Mr. Kaag shared that a naturally occurring fungus was just discovered that consumes hydrocarbons. If there is a spill or hydrocarbon catastrophe this fungus can be introduced to help clean up the area.

#### **Non-recyclable Plastic Fuel Program**

Mr. Kaag announced that a new program is being started in South East Asia where non-recyclable plastics removed from the ocean are then converted to fuel. The type of fuel is 75% less in CO2 emissions than standard fossil fuel.

#### **Monthly Cleanup Walk**

Ms. Kaag announced that a decent amount of people seem to be interested in a monthly weeknight clean up walk. Ms. Kaag suggested that we do a trial cleanup walk in September to gauge interest and see how it goes.

#### **Final Comment**

Mr. Kaag reminded everyone that if they have any ideas or suggestions to reach out to him via email. If anyone would like something added to the agenda for a meeting to also let him know via email.

Mr. Adams announced the first EAC planning meeting is on August 25<sup>th</sup> and that he is now a member of that committee for the state.

Mr. Lineaweaver reminded everyone that the West Reading Fall Cleanup is scheduled for Sep 19<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm. Ms. Kaag suggested that we look into doing something other than pizza due to the current COVID-19 situation. Mr. Adams suggested that we remind people that Concert in the Park is right after the cleanup which could incentive people to attend both events. Ms. Hiester suggested that instead of food we could possibly partner with the Concert in the Park event to supply a coupon for someone who volunteers for the cleanup.

#### **Adjournment**

Moved by Mr. Lineaweaver and seconded by Mr. Keller to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicole Phillips  
Associate Member