
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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MEETING MINUTES October 25, 2021

Members Present

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

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Lineaweaver and seconded by Ms. Kaag to approve the minutes of August 23, 2021.
Motion carried.

Renewable Energy Update

Mr. Murray stated that we are under contract with our current electric company until Spring of 2022. He informed everyone that IGS wanted to lock us into a contract starting next year. After some further discussion he thinks its best to stay with the current energy company the borough is with. Mr. Murray talked with them about the gas rates and they are going to look into the rates and get back to him.

Fall Borough Clean up Results

Mr. Kaag announced that over 200lbs of trash was collected. Tires, car parts, glass, metal, food bags, and cigarettes were the main items collected. Mr. Kaag suggested that we start to do a monthly clean up. The monthly clean up would take place the Sunday before the EAC meeting. Ms. Kaag suggested that we start this next year in the spring possibly in March.

Trash and Recycling Contract

Mr. Kaag stated that we need to start to look into what to do about the trash and recycling contract which is up at the end of 2022. Mr. Murray stated that we currently dump at Pioneer Landfill which is in Exeter Township. If we were to look into going to a cheaper landfill that is further out the gas prices to get there might go up. The borough has been with Pioneer Landfill for the past 10 years. Currently the rate is \$88.65 a ton and for next year the rate is going up \$3.50 a ton. Mr. Murray suggested that we have trash pick up once a week and recycling every other week. Mr. Lineaweaver mentioned that he has talked with other borough council members who have mentioned that since the borough is not very large having us stay at twice a week trash pick up and once a week recycling shouldn't make much of a difference. Mr. Murray suggested that we look into combining with other municipalities to do trash and recycling pick up. The benefit is that the borough would be doing it at cost and not paying another company but there are many different things to consider.

Open Position

Mr. Kaag informed everyone that Ms. Heister turned in her resignation from the EAC. Ms. Kaag suggested that Nicole Phillips be appointed to the open position on the EAC. Motion made by Mr. Keller to recommend Nicole Phillips to the West Reading Borough Council to be appointed to the EAC as a full member seconded by Ms. Kaag. Motion carried.

Public comment

Mr. Kaag on behalf of the garden mentioned that a Wyomissing resident is looking into doing small scale composting. He is looking for places to dispose of fruit and vegetable scraps nearby. Ms. Kaag also mentioned that she submitted a report to the CRF to potentially move the garden next year. The contract for the current garden space is up next August. The garden will be closing on November 30th and there will be a small clean up.

Adjournment

Moved by Ms. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Keller to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Phillips
Associate Member