
**West Reading Environmental Advisory
Council**

**500 Chestnut Street
West Reading, PA 19611**

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**MEETING MINUTES
June 25, 2018**

Members Present

Chairperson Jenna Hiester; Council Member Philip Wert; Residents Karin Long and Ryan Lineaweaver and Assistant to Borough Manager Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors Present

Public Works Director, Dean Murray

Call to Order

Chairperson Jenna Hiester called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM. Ms. Hiester expressed her excitement to be the new Chair of the Committee and thanked everyone for affording her the opportunity.

Old Business

- a) Approval of May Minutes – Moved by Mrs. Long and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the minutes of May 29, 2018.
- b) Yard Waste Disposal Collection – Dean Murray noted that approximately five years ago the Borough began providing a drop off location at the Borough garage to collect yard waste. Various trials were performed to provide an after business hour drop off time, however efforts were cost prohibitive. Mr. Murray reported the number of residents taking advantage of the drop off has increased over the five-year span. Yard waste is then hauled away for dumping and the Borough incurs a cost. Mr. Wert suggested exploring an option of a joint effort with the Borough of Wyomissing to collect yard waste. Mr. Murray suggested in the interim to offer a trial period to allow drop off at the garage on the first Saturday of the month during the months of April through November from 8:00 a.m. to Noon beginning on August 4, 2018. Information will be provided to residents via the Borough website and Facebook pages, including a list of items that may be dropped off such as branches, bushes, stumps and vegetation.
- c) Recycling on Penn Avenue – Ms. Hiester requested recommendations to promote placement of only recyclable materials within these containers. Mr. Murray noted an improvement in material placement now that both sides of the containers are marked. Ms. Hiester recommended communicating with the businesses along Penn Avenue to promote proper disposal. Mr. Murray reported that during the recent Art on the Avenue event use of the event recycling containers had lessened the amount of trash collected. However,

the recycling dumpster located at the garage is not large enough to accommodate event material. The hauler recommended ordering a larger dumpster for event weekends.

Mr. Murray departed the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

- d) Met-Ed Energy Audit – Mrs. Madeira reported the architect and electrician completed their review of Borough Hall last week and we are awaiting a report to identify potential energy conservation recommendations.
- e) West Reading Nature Photography Contest Fundraiser Idea – Mrs. Long researched pricing of various items for this potential contest/fundraiser. Ms. Hiester requested the information be shared with committee members for further consideration and prizes to be potentially provided by local businesses.
- f) PA Sustainable Communities Certification – Mr. Wert suggested dedicating an entire meeting to complete various sections of the survey. Ms. Hiester expressed a preference of meeting at a separate time due to the number of items currently being discussed by the Committee. Mr. Wert will inquire with the Borough Manager to obtain login information as well as any progress updates.

New Business

- a) ACT Grants for Fall 2018: Tree Giveaway or Riparian Planting Program - Committee members discussed the tree distribution program that was completed last year and due to space limitations agreed to pursue this grant every other year. The Riparian program requires the planting of 75 #3 trees along a waterway or buffer zone. Also, due to space limitations the Committee agreed to table pursuance of the planting award opportunity.
- b) Interactive educational activity with summer Playground Program/Summer Street Cleanup Day - Mr. Wert suggested coordinating a cleanup day on the morning of a community yard sale event, such as the upcoming Fall Festival. Recognition or a gift could be awarded during the festival. Ms. Hiester suggested avoiding the numerous activities of Fall Festival day and discussed coordinating efforts with the Harvest Festival event to potentially provide the gift of a pumpkin or a visit to the haunted house. Mrs. Long suggested activities such as a tree leaf scavenger hunt, building bat houses or field trip activities to Nolde Forest or Berks Nature. Ms. Hiester will discuss options with the Recreation Director.
- c) Public Engagement Ideas - Topics such as the painted rock treasure hunt movement known as Berks County Rocks and geo-caching were discussed to promote public interest on the EAC Facebook page. Committee members will review options to discuss during next month's meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.

**Next Meeting: Monday, July 23, 2018 at 7:00PM at
West Reading Borough Hall**