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# West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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## MEETING MINUTES May 20, 2019

### Members Present

Chairperson Jenna Hiester; Council Member Philip Wert and Patrick Kaag; Resident Ryan Lineaweaver.

### Call to Order

Chairperson Jenna Hiester called the meeting to order at 6:21 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Lineaweaver and seconded by Mr. Kaag to approve the minutes of April 22, 2019. Motion carried.

**Berks County Conservation District Membership** – Due to the previous motion on March 25, 2019 to a lot \$100 towards a Nurturer of Conservation Membership, which was found to exceed the amount budgeted for this committee it was decided to reduce the contribution.

Motion to contribute \$25 for a Friend of Conservation Membership by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Lineaweaver. Motion carried.

**Earth Day** – The Earth Day Cleanup could have had a better turnout had the weather cooperated. Kutztown University students assisted with cleanup within the Playground area and members of Environmental Advisory Council collected eleven bags of trash from the cloverleaf area.

Ms. Heister noted during the months of September and October Keep PA Beautiful coordinates an International Coastal Cleanup, which focuses on waterways. The top five types of trash found along waterways are cigarette butts, food wrappers, plastic bottles, bottle caps and tires. Dates will be reviewed with the Recreation Department to coordinate cleanup at the fishing dock and creek areas. Also, a fall cleanup date was discussed to continue cleanup of areas that were not addressed in the spring.

**Community Garden** – A list of projects were provided by Ms. Heister:

- **Compost Bins** - Mr. Kaag provided enough palettes to create compost bins and plans to construct them as well as posting necessary moveable signage for processing of the compost. A compost manager has not yet volunteered.
- **Pre-Summer Cleanup** – Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> has been designated as a pre-summer cleanup day in the garden with the times to be announced.
- **Midsummer Social** – Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> a potluck social is planned in the garden from 7-9pm.
- **Workshop** – Ms. Heister has requested the owner of Farm House Kitchen to host a workshop at the garden.
- **Land Use Agreement** – Ms. Heister is working on a draft land use agreement to discuss with the owner of the property.
- **Playground Group Project** – Children attending the Playground Group will be asked to paint rocks as an activity on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Various aged groups will then visit the garden on June 26<sup>th</sup> to create a rock garden as a tribute to Dean Rohrbach. Ground cover could also be planted in the rock garden plot. An additional activity could be painting wooden signs for the garden, such as “welcome/grow”.
- **Garden Plot Fees** – Ms. Heister noted collection of \$450 in annual garden plot fees, which will be provided to the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation Treasurer, Andrew Moletress. A portion of these fees could be used to purchase needed supplies for upgrades and activities within the garden.

**Yard Waste Drop-Off** – Council will be requested to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month as a resident yard waste drop off at the Borough garage from 9am to Noon during the months of April through December.

**Tree Inventory Grant** – Mr. Wert noted approval of the West Reading tree inventory grant with a request for use of five iPad's or iPhones for the week of July 8<sup>th</sup>. More information or options will be requested from DCNR.

**Resignation** – Mr. Wert noted his desire to step down from the Environmental Advisory Council and will provide a written resignation letter to Borough Council later this week.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.

**Next Meeting: Monday, June 24, 2019 at 6:15PM**