
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2020

Members Present

Chairperson Jenna Hiester; Council Member Patrick Kaag and Samantha Kaag; Residents Jim Keller and Ryan Lineaweaver; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

Call to Order

Chairperson Jenna Hiester called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Lineaweaver to approve the minutes of October 28, 2019. Motion carried.

Community Garden

- **Land Use Agreement** - A copy of the signed land use agreement is needed prior to implementing any improvements for the 2020 gardening season.
- **Profit & Loss** – Members reviewed the list of income and expenses for the 2019 season and requested a more detailed list of expenses totaling \$96.90. Funds for the 2020 season are needed to repair the plots and replenish the soil. Mr. Kaag will gather a list of materials and estimated costs prior to the February meeting. Improvements to the garden could justifiably yield an increase to the plot fees.
- **2020 Goals** – The layout of plots was discussed and it was recommended to either reduce the size of the plots or remove plots to allow easier access with a lawn mower. It was suggested to hold two volunteer events prior to Earth Day to accomplish this goal. An increase to the frequency of removing composting material was recommended on a monthly basis, coordination is needed with the Public Works Department.

Earth Day 2020 – Ms. Hiester noted the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and the Berks County Earth Day Committees invitation to join their event held on April 26th to share our efforts that positively impact the environment and to educate the public through displays, handouts or small activities. Mrs. Kaag encouraged involvement in these types of events to bring more awareness and community involvement to accomplish goals within West Reading. Tentative dates of April 19th or 26th were discussed to host a West Reading Earth Day event.

Berks County Community Foundation Grant – Ms. Hiester provided information pertaining to a grant opportunity to develop clean energy technologies and energy efficiency. Project determination would be needed to develop use of renewable energy and/or energy conservation measures. Review of the energy audit was recommended and installation of solar panels on the Fire Department building were discussed. The grant opportunity information will be shared with Council to determine a direction on the scope of viable projects.

Update from Council – Mr. Kaag noted plans to request an increase to the EAC budget, in part to host a larger Earth Day event and to promote the EAC by creating an interest through the creation of flyers/pamphlets.

Shade Tree Commission Meeting – Ms. Hiester reminded members of the joint EAC and Shade Tree Commission meeting, which is scheduled on Monday, February 3rd at 6:00 p.m. to view a presentation on the recent tree inventory findings.

2020 EAC Network Conference – Ms. Hiester shared information on an annual EAC Network Conference that will be held in Upper Merion Township on May 2, 2020. Registration is available for EAC members and municipal officials.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2020 at 6:15PM