
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2023

Members Present

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

Call to Order

Mr. Kaag called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Keller and seconded by Ms. Weik to approve the minutes of September 26, 2022. Motion carried.

EAC Member Goals

Mr. Keller shared that he will be pursuing a permeable surface grant for the borough. This could potentially help borough residents put in parking spots in their backyard using permeable surface material. Mr. Keller would also like to peruse opening up the river access road. This would allow access to the river for fishing.

Ms. West mentioned that she would like to look into starting a community fridge. She shared that the Reading Public Library South East Branch recently got a grant to start a community fridge for their location. She suggested that the pavilion or the firehouse might be a good spot to have a community fridge in West Reading.

Ms. Weik shared that a friend who works for New Castle Lawn and Landscape had mentioned that that they might be interested in donating to the EAC. Ms. Weik also mentioned that she would like to look into how the borough could educate restaurants and bars in the area on biodegradable food containers. During the fall and spring cleanups a lot of the waste picked up is from takeout containers.

Mr. Domingo would like to see more signs encouraging dog owners to pick up their dog's waste while walking. Ms. Weik suggested putting more trash cans or dog waste containers in the borough area. Mr. Domingo also suggested handing out fridge magnets that remind residents what is recycling and what is considered trash. Mr. Kaag stated that he is getting a quote from Rieck's Printing to have these magnets made.

Ms. Kaag would like to work on the EAC social media presence. This would help bring in more volunteers for cleanups and EAC events. Ms. Kaag also mentioned that she is continuing to work on the West Reading Community Garden, which is moving to a new location this year. Ms. Kaag stated that she would like to work on creating a reusable tote bag for shopping in the borough.

Heal the Planet Grant

Mr. Kaag announced that the West Reading EAC did win the Heal the Planet Grant. Mr. Kaag stated that the grant is for \$10,000 and will be used for removing fallen trees from the creek and helping to build up the shore line of the creek. Mr. Kaag stated that he would like to have this project completed by April and Mr. Murray reminded everyone that it must be completed by June to comply with the grant guidelines.

Solar Project Update

Mr. Kaag shared that he spoke with Bachman's Roofing and APPI Energy about potentially getting solar panels installed on the borough garage and fire company. Mr. Kaag stated that with the new Inflation Reduction Act they are allowing some municipalities to utilize grant money to become solar.

Spring Free Market

Mr. Kaag asked if anyone had any suggestions for the date of the spring free market. Mr. Lineaweaver suggested scheduling the free market for the week after the borough wide community yard sale in June. Ms. Kaag suggested having the spring free market on June 24th and have the Earth Day clean up on April 22nd. Mr. Murray noted that this would help get the park area clean for the disc golf tournament in May.

BBB Clean Up

Ms. Kaag asked when we would like to restart the BBB clean ups again. Mr. Kaag suggested that we restart these clean ups in March. Mr. Lineaweaver suggested that we do it the 3rd weekend of every month going forward for the rest of the year. Ms. Kaag reminded everyone that last year we had talked about doing a flyer for the residents that give information on trash, electronic recycling, clean ups, and different events for EAC. Ms. Kaag volunteered to work on this flyer along with Ms. Weik.

Motion made by Mr. Lineaweaver to have the spring free Market on June 24th, the Earth day clean up on April 22nd, and the BBB cleanup every 3rd weekend of each month and seconded by Ms. Kaag. Motion carried.

MS4 Bulletin

Mr. Kaag shared that a lot of the sewer grate placards are broken and he is looking into getting these fixed.

Global Update

Mr. Kaag shared that there has been tremendous advancements in fusion technology. These breakthroughs can help get us closer to a sustainable energy source.

Final Comments

Ms. Kaag suggested that the EAC paint the cross walks coming off of Penn Avenue using biodegradable paint to help support/promote LGBTQ. Mr. Kaag stated that if Ms. Kaag will gather all the information it will be added to next months agenda.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Keller and seconded by Mr. Weik to adjourn the meeting at 6:41p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Weik
EAC Member