

West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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MEETING MINUTES

August 28, 2023

Members Present

Chairperson Patrick Kaag, Paige West, Samantha Kaag, Jim Keller, Ryan Lineaweaver, Christine Matthews, Dean Murray Borough Manager. Members not in attendance: Nicole Weik, and Ty Gardner.

Call to Order

Mr. Kaag called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of July 24, 2022. Motion carried.

2023 EAC Member Goals Updates

- Jay Santo Domingo: created a map of the borough with pins to show locations for additionally proposed dog waste bins, a total of (8) spots. Copies were distributed to all members. Jay described pricing from local vendor at around \$150/unit. Will check with Public Works to see if there is wholesale pricing to lower the cost. The idea is to have widespread locations throughout the Borough. for the fridge.
- Ryan Lineaweaver: reported back on the idea of restaurant compost buckets and found that many businesses that serve food in the borough have little to no food waste. Will continue to search for ways to utilize this service.
- Samantha Kaag: looking at grants to aid with the construction of the new community garden. Spoke with RM Palmer company to discuss opportunities with the memorial garden.
- Nicole Weik: Chair received information from local State Representative's office about a potential grant for educational projects within the Borough. Looking to educate businesses on alternatives for single-use plastics & Styrofoam. This is one of Nicole's goals for the EAC, so information will be passed along to her once it is received.

Memorial Garden Update

Borough Council approved proceeding with Newcastle Lawn & Landscape designing & constructing a memorial garden for the victims of the RM Palmer explosion. They will be working with the Borough Administration to determine what is needed for electricity, drainage, etc. Discussions are already happening to determine how the garden will be maintained and updated, many companies and organizations have shown interest in donating to help with this.

Free Market

Saturday 9/23/23 is the proposed date for the Fall Free Market with a rain date of 9/24/23, from 10a-2pm for both dates. A joint effort is being made with the West Reading - Wyomissing Buy Nothing group to co-host the event at the West Reading Pavilion. Contact between the admins of the Buy Nothing group has occurred and will proceed. This cooperative effort will help reach more residents and provide growth for this event and future events. Decided that having these events the weekend following Art on the Avenue & Fall Fest, which fall on the same weekend as the community yard sales, will help encourage people to give away whatever they do not sell the previous weekend.

SRT Signage

Christine discussed with the council that she has been working with close contacts at the SRT Greenways organization to see about updating/increasing signage for residents & bicyclists to find the trail access points

easier. She will provide updates as this develops, including costs - designs - proposals.

2022 Healing the Planet Grant Update

Final report submitted and social media post created to highlight the program details, total funding received, and long-term results since the project completion. This will aid in obtaining grants in the future.

MS4 Monthly Update

Checking your home gutters. Discussion was held to go over the importance of cleaning gutters regularly in order to provide proper drainage. If this is not done, then water freely flows across yards and areas where chemicals and other materials may wash into the storm sewers.

Global Update

Lancaster County-1st County in the country to have 100,000 acres of farmland designated for preservation. Developers across the United States have been building homes, businesses, and industrial sites on land where farmland previously existed. Preservation of farmland in key areas is of the highest importance as it protects critical ecosystems and natural features.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Kaag, CBO
West Reading Borough Council