

WESTWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Westwood EAC Monthly Meeting Minutes February 2018

Meeting Date: February 26, 2018

Meeting Location: Westwood Borough Hall

Meeting Opening & Roll Call

Monthly Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting was called to order at 1935 EST by Chair Guderian of the EAC . . . “This meeting, which conforms to the OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW, CHAPTER 231, PUBLIC LAWS OF 1975, is a regular Environmental Committee meeting. Notices have been filed with our local official newspapers and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board.”

Roll Call			<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Jeanne Guderian, Chair	(JG)		X	
Christine Blaney	(CB)		X	
Peter Grefrath, Committee Liaison	(PG)		X	
Norel Blundo	(NB)		X	
Boniface Kiamue	(BK)			X
Angel Nass	(AN)			X
Wilhelm Wang, Minutes, Secretary	(WW)			X
Philip Biccocchi, Chair, Student member	(PB)			X

Point of Order

In Secretary Wang’s absence, the Chair asked Mr. Grefrath to maintain the minutes for the February meeting.

Public Forum

Public Forum was opened, discussion took place, and was moved for closure.

- One member of the public, Shaina Woodward, was present and after being introduced, a light conversation among the guest and the Committee ensued regarding several items regarding Westwood High School and the Environmental Club and the feeling that the Committee might move the Student Member term from September to September rather than an annual basis.
- It was recognized that SW would like to join the EAC as its second student member and PG said he would ask the Clerk to put that on the agenda at the next M&C meeting.

Motion to open and close the Public Forum:

Member	Moved	Second	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Blaney	✓		✓			
Grefrath			✓			
Chair Guderian			✓			
Blundo		✓	✓			
Kiamue					✓	
Nass					✓	
Wang					✓	
Biccocchi						

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Passing of the Minutes

Voting on the January 2018 minutes will be held until the March meeting. CB, PG, JG, and NB will be eligible to vote.

Committee Liaison's Report

Mr. Grefrath provided updates on the following to the EAC:

- Mentioned that he did not make a report to the Governing Body since the January meeting.
- Opened discussion regarding text for a brass plaque to be placed on the front of the TREX benches and a sign to promote the Rain Garden. The EAC agreed that we should move forward with both projects. JG has taken the language submitted, held a discussion regarding adjusting the language, and will report back to the EAC in March.
- PG reported that the Postmaster has rejected the request to put a TREX bench in front of the post office.
- Peter mentioned that the Green Team and the Mayor and Council were getting a banner for Pride Day (and other exposure) and the group said it would also like a banner.
- PG expressed concern about the lack of attendance for the third consecutive meeting and said he would reach out to members who cannot seem to attend meetings.

Old Business

Community Garden Report:

- PG and CB said there was no additional information to discuss at this time.

Rain Garden Project: (CB)

- CB said this topic should be removed from Old Business and reported on in New Business, when necessary.

The Green Team: (JG)

- JG reported that she went to Glen Rock for a Green Team gathering and met some members from other Green Teams and came home with new ideas that might or might not work for Westwood.
- JG mentioned that it might be smart for the Green Team and the EAC to join forces at Pride Day and double up on participation and resources. She will bring this idea up at the Green Team meeting on Thursday.

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Trex Reusable Bags Program – Public Education and Outreach: (JG/AN)

- JG reported that the current total for January is 350 pounds of plastic toward our 500 pound goal.
- JG led a discussion of where a third bench should be placed: Outside the Community Center, at the 3rd Avenue/Mill Street Bus Stop, the Dog Run and the Community Garden at Westvale. More discussion to come.
- JG is developing a sign that highlights the importance of collecting single-use bags to be placed on top of the collection boxes.
- The group agreed that a good location for the final collection box was on the Meeting Room side of the Community Center to complement the one on the Gym side.
- JG said that some of the bags had to be discarded because some people included dirty and sometimes smelly bags into the receptacle boxes.

Complete Streets Program: (WW/AN)

- No report.

Pride Day Booth: (NB)

- NB continued her discussion started at the December meeting regarding how she would like to tie the theme of “Certified Wildlife Habitats” into the 2018 booth.
- NB discussion continued regarding combining the effort with the Green Team.
- The topic of a one-hour environmental demonstration took place and will continue.

New Business

Composting: (WW)

- No report.

Pesticide Uses: (CB/WW)

- No report.

BiState Watershed Clean-up: (CB, NB, AN)

- Announced next Cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 28.
- CB said that she would once again apply for a \$300 grant from the County.
- SW, who was attending the meeting, said she would ask for additional student volunteers at Westwood High School.
- CB said she would talk with Rick Woods to see if we could get coffee/pizza or something for the volunteers. PG mentioned to get a receipt and we could pay some of the costs.
- CB also said she would ask Rick to mention the event on the Municipal Board on Broadway. PG said he would ask the Clerk to put it on the municipal website.

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Meeting adjourned, motioned by CB and seconded by NB promptly at 2025.

Next Meeting – Monday, March 19, 2018 Borough Hall at 1910.

Upcoming 2018 Meetings as Scheduled:

April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16 (scheduled, unless voted not to hold), No Meeting in August, September 17, October 15, November 19 (adopt Master Gardiner Resolution), December 17 (vote on 2019 officers)