

**Town of Porter  
Environmental Sustainability Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
July 15, 2025  
Porter Town Hall**

**A.** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Tara Duffie, Chair-Person

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Roll Call**

Present: Tara Duffie, Devin Throw, Jennifer Dimitroff, David Phillips and Mitch Reynolds

Absent: Isabel Durkin

Also present: Tammie Sufana, Recording Secretary

**D. Consideration of Minutes-June 17, 2025**

David Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2025 as written,

Tara Duffie made second. Motion passed 5-0.

**E. Audience Participation-NONE**

**F. Old Business-NONE**

**G. New Business**

Native Garden Updates and Map-Duffie mentions thanks to Urban Pollinators Project the garden at Hawthorne is paid for and installed. Scott Palla has been wonderful to work with on the project, and Duffie looks forward to working with UPP on future gardens in the community. It was installed this past Saturday in front of war memorial. The purple blooms are for loss of animals during war. This is the last garden of the year, and we are ahead of schedule. She thinks the gardens are a positive ecological impact in Porter. She also wants to thank the commission for planting and parks department for doing the heavy lifting. In 2026 our goal will be two more gardens and maps for all gardens. We will start planning for garden placement and doing the maps the rest of this year.

Neighborhood Native Garden Walk-Dimitroff mentions we are still on for walk on Tuesday, August 12 5:30-6:30 pm hosted by Emily Bretl at Porter Town Hall, and try to get in Nathan Pilla's. She hopes to be able to do both. Maybe she will make map after that.

IDEM's Clean Community Program-Duffie mentions Partners for Clean Air is not in our Wheelhouse. She thinks the Clean Community Program is what we are going to do. The bronze level is where we will start there are no projects, just an application saying compliant on IDEM stuff for last 3 years. She would like to do a silver level that requires four projects, it will take a little time. There are only 9 Indiana towns that are on it now. Its

free and you work at your own pace. She would like a motion to apply for the program. Dimitroff made a motion to apply for IDEM Clean Community Program, Reynolds made second. Motion passed 5-0.

Plastic Free July Event and Info-Dimitroff mentions things to think about for next July. Dimitroff mentions maybe we can ask business's if they want to adopt a highway so we are not the only one doing it. Duffie mentions our participation is still new maybe in a couple of years. Throw suggests maybe we can ask business's what can we do to help you with recycling, maybe we can get some recognition for that. IDEM offers training on purchasing policies that way you have a little more knowledge. Phillips mentions maybe we can have an ordinance for Hawthorne to use recycled materials. We have to start with our place before we can go to businesses. Duffie would like to approach Town council President on plastic free at town events and Hawthorne for purchasing policy on recycled Material. This is a goal to look forward to next July. Duffie mentions step one is for us as a Town to do and step two by the way lead the way. Duffie mentions a Plastic Free July Clean Up Event Sunday July 27, 3-6 at Four Corners Winery in Valparaiso. It would be clean up area around winery. Afterwards stop at Winery for food and drink. A lot of good ideas hope to brainstorm some ideas.

#### **H. Board Comments-**

Dimitroff mentions Community Tree has opened grant program for free trees, she let Brian Park Director know. And also, a possibility Student Conservation Corp will install them for him. They can also do a tree planting demonstration which would be a community outreach thing.

Dimitroff comments she has another community outreach that Jim Starin wants to do for us. He is the butterfly guy that lives on Oak Hill Rd. He likes to do a program the encourage people to plant more things for butterflies. Duffie mentions part of the native garden is to increase bees and butterflies.

Dimitroff also mentions the David Keaton on Oak Hill has invited to come see his property This Friday at 10:00 am at 750 E Oak Hill Rd.

Reynolds would like to do a brainstorming for community involvement. He thinks the big Problem is he doesn't think the residents of the town know we exist. Phillips mentions maybe do something at Porter Perfect Pint, maybe a handout or signs. Duffie states it is essential to keep pushing forward. She will check with Chamber to do European Market. Duffie asks what is the objective? Reynolds says it is more for community involvement. He Would like to see commission and community not just commission. Duffie states we have to have a reason as to why we are outreaching. Phillips, we want people to know we want their input. Reynolds states with the longevity of the commission we need people to fill our seats. Duffie mentions Hultman had talked about other boards on commission. It is also better to have different community members on board for outside ideas. Duffie asks Throw if he can draft up some flyers to be put up around community.

Adjournment- 7:47 pm

*Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-2.9, this meeting was livestreamed to [youtube.com/@porterindiana](https://www.youtube.com/@porterindiana). A recording of the livestream will remain publicly available for a minimum of ninety (90) days following the date of the meeting. Meeting agendas, minutes, and any memoranda, may be viewed at [townofporter.in.gov](http://townofporter.in.gov).*

Tara Duffie, Chair-Person  
Dave Phillips, Vice Chair-Person  
Devin Throw, Secretary  
Jennifer Dimitroff  
Isabel Durkin

Tammie Sufana, Recording Secretary