

Town of Porter Environmental Sustainability Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
November 18, 2025

The Environmental Sustainability Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Tara Duffie, Chairperson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance were Tara Duffie, Devin throw, Jennifer Dimitroff (showed up after roll call), David Phillips, Isabel Durkin, Mitch Reynolds, Peter Sawochka-Dalton, and Tammie Sufana, Recording Secretary.

**Consideration of Minutes**

David Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes of August 19, 2025 as written, Mitch Reynolds made second. Motion passed 6-0.

**Audience Participation**

**Old Business**

Native Gardens Project update- Tara Duffie mentions that we are going to pivot in 2026 to maintenance of gardens. We will put any other gardens on hold unless we can get a grant. We can work on teaching people how to do gardens and brochures for websites. She would also like to have something on the website about the Monarch Butterflies. Jenny Dimitroff mentions that Scott Palla is supposed to do a workshop at Augsburg about what he is doing there. She thinks it might be April. Isabel Durkin will work on brochures for the website.

IDEM Clean Communities Program update-Tara Duffie mentions that we will apply for a silver level in January when she sends in the annual report. The biggest requirement is the annual meetings in November. Jenny Dimitroff mentions that IU Environmental Resilience Resource will help come up with projects.

**New Business**

Christmas Light Recycling Collection-Jenny Dimitroff mentions that we will start collecting the Monday after Thanksgiving. Jenny Dimitroff made a motion to put Christmas Light recycle box out the Monday after Thanksgiving until first week of January 2026, Isabel Durkin made second. Motion passed 7-0.

NWI Plastic Reduction Business Subcommittee Questions-Jenny Dimitroff mentions 5 trillion plastic bags used this year. She also mentions that Canada has banned plastic bags. Indiana has a bill that bans banning plastic bags. She thought about having Hawthorne Park use reuseable silverware. Here is a question to ask businesses in Porter, What would encourage

you to stop using single use plastics. Mitch Reynolds asks about ways to encourage businesses. Tara Duffie mentions giving some guidelines for businesses to follow for July. Tara Duffie mentions forming a subcommittee on plastic recycling.

### **Board Comments**

Tara Duffie mentions she knows the Council has changing the term of the students on the radar and payment. She comments if there is anything else you want something changed in ordinance let here know she will forward it on.

Tara Duffie mentions the end of year report is do and will be ready for next meeting. Devin Throw would like to help with it this year.

Jenny Dimitroff mentions if we as a group would support Indiana Plant Society change the state flower from Peony to Butterfly weed. They would put our name on Indiana Plant Society website. Tara Duffie mentions that we will bring it up at the next meeting.

Adjournment- 7:59 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  
Jennifer Dimitroff  
Isabel Durkin, Secretary  
Peter SawochkaDalton

Tammie Sufana, Recording Secretary