

Town of Porter
Environmental Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2025
Porter Town Hall

A. Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Tara Duffie, Chair-Person

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

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

Absent: Allison Hultman, David Phillips, and Isabel Durkin

Also present: Tammie Sufana, Recording Secretary

D. Consideration of Minutes-February 18, 2025

Devin Throw made a motion to approve the minutes of February 18, 2025 as written, Jennifer Dimitroff made second. Motion passed 4-0.

E. Audience Participation-Jamie Steele, 414 Bowser St, Chesterton, just here to see how it works because Chesterton is starting an ESC also.

F. Old Business

Landscape Recommendations-Duffie mentions vast improvement on what we have now. Trying to put into law better ideas for tree preservation, canopy requirements for downtown, buffer yards and screening, drought resistance plant requirements. We talked about maintenance and replacement standards and generally infrastructure. Duffie recommends out the word ordinance and put in recommendations.

Dimitroff made a motion to approve to have Duffie send landscaping recommendations to Mr. Barry with changing wording from ordinance to recommendation, Reynolds made second. Motion passed 4-0.

Town Hall Native Gardens updates-Duffie mentions Town Council approved Dimitroff to apply for Nipsco grant for projects which is due in April. Duffie went to RDC about TIF money and TIF money cannot be used for gardens. Dimitroff mentions if you have a suggestion on what to put in to measure our success she would appreciate it. Duffie mentions we could use our resources and have Clerk Treasurer put something on website. Duffie mentions that quantify data is important for money and fundraising. Duffie also mentions she spoke to some people at her SCAN network meeting about ways to get funds. Scott Palla will donate some plants. Duffie mentions the Clerk Treasurer is going to check with State Board of Accounts about a donations line item for ESC. Purdue has two weeks open to apply for Federal Grants if someone has time. Duffie mentions they will start the Town Hall Native Gardens the end of May.

Earth Day Event-Duffie mentions nice job on pamphlet Throw for Earth Day event. Duffie mention that when she went to Town Council about the event several departments are offering some help. Duffie mention if there is time and volunteers would like to do a second location, we could park at visitor center and do the Dunes Kankakee Trail Walkway. Throw would like to do a survey on the trash for his school project.

G. New Business

H. Board Comments

Duffie mention the next item they will be looking into is residential lighting issues for recommendations for Mr. Barry for updating town code.

Dimitroff mentions the PLANT Symposium is April 10 at Hawthorne Park community Building from 6-8 p.m. there will be speakers there, trivia night, and games.

Throw mentions that next year he will be an executive board member for Rebuilding Duneland and maybe he can get some of commissions projects done.

Adjournment- 7:52 pm

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

Tammie Sufana, Recording Secretary