

**Town of Porter
Environmental Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 15, 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, David Phillips, Jennifer Dimitroff, and Isabel Durkin

Absent: Allison Hultman, Devin Throw, and Mitch Reynolds

Also present: Tammie Sufana, Recording Secretary

D. Consideration of Minutes-March 18, 2025

Jennifer Dimitroff made a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2025 as written, David Phillips made second. Motion passed 4-0.

E. Audience Participation-

F. Old Business

Town Hall Native Gardens updates-Tara Duffie mention that they have applied for NipSCO Grant and asked for \$4,000, we should hear back on Earth Day April 22 if we were approved. She also stated that Hultman mentioned contacting Chesterton Feed & Garden about donating. We have and they are offering to donate we will have an update on what at next meeting. Also, Scott Palla, Native Plant nonprofit will donate plugs. Tara Duffie comments she will talk to Town Council about the plant donations. Tara Duffie mention putting something on website about donations. The main purpose is to give workshops so residents can put native gardens in their yards.

Earth Day Event-Waverly Road Cleanup between US20 and US12 on April 26, from 9:00 a.m. To 12:00 p.m. Tara Duffie mentions this is a great time of year to clean up. Station 1 is Waverly and you can park in the Dollar General parking lot. Station 2 is the Cloverleaf by Visitor Center with parking at Visitor Center.

G. New Business

Environmental Lighting Recommendations (Dark Sky, wildlife, and Community Impact) Tara Duffie mentions on this one she thinks only one should work on recommendations for residential areas and then bring back to board for discussion. Then we will forward on to Mike Barry or maybe send to Plan Commission. Jennifer Dimitroff offered to work on this and if she has questions, she would contact Tara Duffie.

Rob Albercht-Mallinger, 3022 State St, thinks you should forward on to Mike Barry and Laura Madigan and they can decide where they go next. Also, he thinks it should be done

for commercial areas as some businesses need a little guidance.

Tara Duffie mentions the reason it came up was residents were complaining about not being dark enough. Dave Phillips comments we can make recommendations for the other areas also.

Jennifer Klug, 200 Franklin St Apt A, states if you're talking about residential lighting but what about Town Hall. On east side of building needs lighting especially on nights with meeting it is very dangerous. Maybe motion detector lights.

H. Board Comments

Tara Duffie thanked everyone for showing up to the PLANT Symposium it was very informative. Jennifer Dimitroff mentions about 13 people showed up and that did not include speakers.

Isabel Durkin mentions May 16 as the date to install the Town Hall garden. May 23 is an additional work day if we need it.

Adjournment- 7:44 pm

Tara Duffie, Chair-Person

Dave Phillips, Vice Chair-Person

Jennifer Dimitroff

Isabel Durkin

Mitch Reynolds

Tammie Sufana, Recording Secretary