

**Town of Porter  
Environmental Sustainability Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
April 16, 2024  
Porter Town Hall**

- A. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Reggie Korthals Chair-Person
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call  
Present: Tara Duffie, Reggie Korthals, Jennifer Dimitroff, and Allison Hultman.  
Absent: Devin Throw, David Rowley  
Also, Present: Tammie Sufana, Recording Secretary.
- D. Consideration of Minutes-March 19, 2024  
Tara Duffie made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2024, Allison Hultman seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
- E. Comments from Floor-Kim Ehn, from Indiana Audubon Society- is very excited as a town resident that we have this commission. There is different groups in the area to help with research and finding funding. Dunes Calumet Audubon Society, Friends of the Dunes, and Save the Dunes. Ms. Korthals ask where do they have to most comprehensive sustainability ordinance. Mrs. Ehn comments the South Bend area. Mrs. Ehn comments Birder Fest is the best one of the fests in the Midwest area and is primarily Porter County. Mrs. Ehn also states that Pollinator Gardens are also Bird friendly.  
Mrs. Duffie asks if they have had any town's sponsors for fest. Mrs. Ehn states no they not.
- F. Report from the Chairman  
Appointment of Committees-Reggie Korthals mentions dividing the work into committees to do more research and report on.
  - 1. Code & Ordinance Reviews & Recommendations-Reggie Korthals & Allison Hultman  
Mrs. Hultman is looking at stormwater ordinance with sustainability in mind. She needs to look at the original storwater ordinance we have now. Ms. Korthals states under current MS4 permit the town needs to update the MS4 Ordinance by July 1 and we need to make sure we tie public outreach into sustainability.
  - 2. Internal Town Issues-David Rowley
  - 3. Pollinator Garden Development & Recommendations-Jennifer Dimitroff is working on some things with Porter County Garden Club. Ms. Korhtals mentions there are some trail projects going on we need to look into seeing about a rain garden.
  - 4. Meadow lawn Recommendations-Tara Duffie comments she will have information to look at for next meeting. She is trying to write the ordinance the way that we

like things. She is looking at vegetation also. Ms. Korthals comments that Meadow lawn will fit into stormwater also.

G. Old Business- Action Items

Bird Town Renewal-Ms. Korthals comments that at last meeting we made a motion to approve Bird Town renewal but we did not make the recommendation to forward to Town Council. Mrs. Duffie recommended to send a favorable recommendation to do Bird Town Renewal to Town Council, Ms. Dimitroff seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Street Trees-damage and impact-Ms. Korthals states Devin took a lot of time and research on this project about the trees.(See attached) She would like to see his recommendation on this at the next meeting.

H. New Business-

Project Funding-Ms. Korthals wants to make sure everyone is aware that they do not have the ability to get funds it has to go through the Town Council.

Coordination with Stormwater Management Board-

Coordination with Redevelopment Commission-Ms. Korthals mentions we need to make sure someone from the board goes to Town Council, Stormwater, and Redevelopment meetings.

I. Comments- Mrs. Duffie comments there are a lot of events coming up about sustainability would we be able to put on Town website to let the public know? Mrs. Duffie is going to send the information to Devin to compile and we will check to see if they can be put on website.

J. Adjournment- 7:48 pm

Reggie Korthals, Chair-Person

Tara Duffie, Vice Chair-Person

Devin Throw, Secretary

Jennifer Dimitroff

Allison Hultman

David Rowley

Isabel Durkin

Tammie Sufana, Recording Secretary