

Town of Porter
Environmental Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2025
Porter Town Hall

A. Meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by Tara Duffie, Chair-Person

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Present: Tara Duffie, David Phillips, Jennifer Dimitroff, Isabel Durkin, and Mitch Reynolds

Absent: Allison Hultman and Devin Throw

Also present: Tammie Sufana, Recording Secretary

D. Consideration of Minutes-April 15, 2025

David Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes of April 15, 2025 as written,

Isabel Durkin made second. Motion passed 4-0.

E. Audience Participation-

F. Old Business

Town Hall Native Gardens updates-David Phillips mentions got most of plants planted and waiting for a batch of plants to come in to plant. Consensus is they like it better than before. Tara Duffie commented thank you all for all the work you did on it. Tara Duffie mentions she is waiting to talk to Park Director Bugajski on the sign design. The signs will be 5 x 8 and will list types of plants and who donated, the cost of them is approximately \$18 each. She is also looking into getting temporary yard signs for summer being it will take a while for the permanent signs to be done. Tara Duffie asked Jennifer Dimitroff about what kind of maintenance the garden will need over the summer. Jennifer Dimitroff mentions mostly watering, depends on weather. Once established the long-term maintenance will not be much. The Commission will take turns watering garden 3 times a week for the summer.

Environmental Lighting Recommendations-Jennifer Dimitroff talks about the dark sky policy template she got from website. She said she likes the highlighted areas of the template.

Jamie Hogan, 100 Duneland Dr, dark sky, light pollution requires investigation, and light trespass is lights impinging on neighbors is the town's responsibility and it disturbs bird migration. She thinks the issue with dark sky and light trespass are a town code issue. She has a neighbor who has a spot light on his house that faces the flag and her yard. She understands flag etiquette. She asked him to do a softer light or one that shined down on flag and not her yard.

Tara Duffie mentions there are 5 principles for responsible outdoor lighting on the dark sky 1.

Use light only if needed, 2. Distribute light only where needed, 3. Use light that is no brighter than needed, 4. Control light so it is on only when need, and 5. Use warmer color light when possible.

Isabel Durkin mentions use lights as bright as needed.

Rob Albrecht-Mallinger, 3022 State St, he comments to base the recommendation on the dark sky template. Residential and commercial lighting has to be different. He also thinks if you remove the words dark sky it would be good.

Tara Duffie thanked everyone for coming and providing input on the recommendations.

G. New Business-NONE

H. Board Comments-Phillips and Durkin mention they will be out of town for next meeting.

Duffie mentions for the Waverly Rd cleanup they took some of Rebuilding Duneland Volunteers. There was between 15-18 people that showed up. She also mentions that Throw took all garbage to his house and counted it. There was 1778 pieces at 128 pounds. She appreciates everyone that came out and wanted to say thank you.

Phillips mentions this Sunday, May 25 is Beach Clean-up at 8:00 a.m.

Duffie mentions the June 7 is Industrial Recycling @ Portage High School.

Reynolds asks about workshop list of ideas; he would like to see it and see where we are and what is next.

Dimitroff went to the last NIRPC meeting and they had a sustainable tools workshop. They are looking at doing it again or going to Environmental Sustainability Commission meetings.

Adjournment- 7:30 pm

Tara Duffie, Chair-Person

Devin Throw, Secretary

Jennifer Dimitroff

Mitch Reynolds

Tammie Sufana

Recording Secretary