

**MEETING MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
January 17, 2019**

A meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Deerfield Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Road, in the Community Conference Room 206. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance were:

Present:

Don Anderson, Chairman
Maria Albulesco
Dick Heller
Laurie Leibowitz
Michael Shalen
Brian Wolkenberg

Absent was:

Daniel Dorfman
Bill Mertes

Also present:

Andrew Lichterman, Assistant Village Manager

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Shalen made a motion seconded by Commissioner Heller to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2018 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Four students from Deerfield High School AP Government class were in attendance to observe the meeting.

Review of ComEd Energy Assessment Experience & Next Steps

Commissioner Shalen shared his experience of the ComEd Energy Assessment reporting it was easy to schedule an appointment and the contractor arrived on-time. The home was thoroughly assessed and he was provided with a written report at the end summarizing the findings. The program is a joint effort with North Shore Gas and ComEd so a multi-faceted home energy assessment was conducted. The program offers homeowners the opportunity to install LED light bulbs, advanced power strips and low flow aerators on sinks and shower heads. The contractors will insulate hot water lines that can be easily accessed and offer discounted programmable thermostats. They only replace living area light bulbs so light bulbs in closets are not replaced. They do carry a number of specialty bulbs but not all. The assessment took about 90 minutes to complete. The contractor reviews everything at the end and provides the homeowner with an estimated yearly savings. Commissioner Shalen is estimated to save \$175 or 1,165 kWh and 57 therms annually due to the changes made during the assessment.

Chairman Anderson reported that he also had a positive experience and received an estimated annual savings of \$190. The contractor replaced 46 light bulbs, amongst a variety of other things. The contractor was very courteous and respectful and showed his ID badge upon arrival. Chairman Anderson noted that

customers need to call the 800 number to schedule an appointment. Once ComEd validates that you are a customer you are then transferred to a call center with Franklin Energy to schedule your appointment. He noted that ComEd is trying to allow for an online appointments but that is not available at this time.

Commissioner Heller suggested that we determine whether or not the contractors are bonded.

Commissioner Mertes reported this his assessment was a pleasant experience and that he received 33 light bulbs and three power strips.

Commissioner Dorfman had a similar experience and supports moving forward with the program.

The Commission concluded that the ComEd home energy assessment is a better fit for our community than the other assessment that was researched by the Commission a few years ago. The ComEd program focuses on more areas of the home, ComEd can provide measurable data and the assessment is free to customers.

Commissioner Wolkenberg confirmed that this program would complement the current energy assessment programs at the schools and would be one additional resource that we can list on the website as a take-home activity for families. This helps drive energy conservation action steps.

Commissioner Heller made a motion to move forward with promotion of the ComEd Home Energy Assessments as part of our energy conservation initiative. Commission Leibowitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Commissioner Shalen will discuss next steps at the next Commission meeting.

Discussion of “Giving to the Trees” Program

Commissioner Leibowitz confirmed the subcommittee intends to host two programs about tree education this fall. The subcommittee is planning to host the tree walk in conjunction with the Park District and Village Arborist this September. Then, a “hands-on” workday would be held in October, likely at the Park District’s Briarwood Nature Area, that would include laying mulch, planting trees and removing invasive species. The subcommittee is considering including a poster contest to help promote the events but it depends on whether or not the High School is able to participate. The Subcommittee is still developing the format and plans for the events.

Chairman Anderson suggested incorporating further promotion of the Village’s 50/50 Parkway Tree Replacement Program and trying to find free tree saplings to provide to event participants.

Aggregate Utility Data

Mr. Lichterman shared aggregated gas and electricity data for commercial customers, residents and governments users. 2018 data will be shared once available.

Other items for discussion

Chairman Anderson is participating on the SWALCO Citizen Advisory Committee that will develop a five year plan around solid waste initiatives.

Adjournment

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Commissioner Heller made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shalen. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Next meeting will be held of February 28.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Lichterman
Assistant Village Manager