

**MEETING MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
March 22, 2018**

A meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Deerfield Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Road, in the Community Conference Room 206. Chairman Don Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance were:

Present:

Don Anderson, Chairman

Dick Heller

Laurie Leibowitz

Michael Shalen

Brian Wolkenberg

Chenlin Zhao

Absent was:

Bill Mertes

Gloria Threats

Daniel Dorfman

Also present:

Andrew Lichterman, Assistant Village Manager

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Shalen made a motion seconded by Commissioner Leibowitz to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2018 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Mr. Arthur Wilde is a Deerfield resident of 22 years. He raised his children in Deerfield and is concerned about climate change. Mr. Wilde expressed urgency around the need to address climate change but noted there is still hope and he has a sense of responsibility to help address this matter. He is curious about the Sustainability Commission's initiatives and would like to learn how he can best contribute. He emphasized a need to take bold steps that are aligned with the urgency of the situation and wants to ensure there is broad community participation. He is new, concerned and getting involved.

Ms. Caitlin Wilde reported she is Mr. Wilde's daughter and that she is a sophomore at Deerfield High School and a member of the Earth Works Club. Chairman Anderson invited the Earth Works Club to continue the tradition of having representatives on the Commission.

Ms. Camilla Dadey was also present. She stated she is interested in sustainability and would like to stay involved.

Energy

Mr. Wolkenberg reported nearly all of the District 109 schools and numerous classrooms are participating in energy conservation activities during the week of April 23 in celebration of Earth Day. Mr. Wolkenberg described the activities outlined in the matrix below:

School	Energy Game	Home Energy Survey	Hands-on Lighting Activity (Walgreen's)	Art & Essay Contest	Carbon Footprint Project	Celebration of Birds	Net Zero Store Discussion (Walgreen's)
Caruso							
Classes	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Date	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Shepard							
Classes	--	--	--	--	--	--	8th grade
Date	--	--	--	--	--	--	4/18
Kipling							
Classes	--	All classes	4	--	K-5	--	--
Date	--	Week of 4/23	4/27, time TBD	--	Week of 4/23	--	--
South Park							
Classes	All classes	All classes	--	All classes	--	--	--
Date	Week of 4/23	Week of 4/23	--	Week of 4/23**	--	--	--
Walden							
Classes	--	--	--	--	--	All classes	--
Date	--	--	--	--	--	Week of 4/23	--

Mr. Wolkenberg noted that the Celebration of Birds is a new program this year that includes educational speakers about bird habitat and the importance of the bird eco system.

He noted that he would like to contract with a graphic designer to refresh some of the documents so they are better targeted at the grade school level.

Commissioner Heller made a motion seconded by Commissioner Leibowitz to contract with a graphic designer to revise documents up to an amount of \$500. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote of 6-0.

Mr. Lichterman noted that the Village is also partnering with Walgreens to host an electronics recycling event on April 19, from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Walgreens Campus, 200 Wilmot Road. Chairman Anderson inquired if we could determine the quantity of electronics that ends up in the landfill. Mr. Lichterman noted he would inquire with Waste Management.

Mr. Lichterman noted that all Commissioners are invited to attend the Arbor Day tree planting with the Earth Works Club at Deerfield High School on Friday, April 27 at 3:15 p.m.

Mr. Lichterman reported that at the last meeting he was asked to inquire with the Park District about partnering on future sustainability initiatives. He noted that the Park District would be happy to explore the opportunity further. Commissioner Leibowitz requested that we invite them to a meeting. Chairman Anderson concurred and suggested that we brainstorm possible discussion topics.

Community Outreach Initiatives

Chairman Anderson thanked the Commission for narrowing down the possible list of initiatives and suggested that we work to further narrow down the list by assigning each topic to a commissioner. He asked that members research the topics and report back to the commission next month. He asked them to consider potential costs and benefits with each topics, what experiences we might have, and the feasibility of each initiative. Commission members were assigned topics as follows:

- Recycling – Commissioner Heller
- LED Lighting – Commissioner Shalen
- Trees – Commissioner Leibowitz
- Composting – Commissioner Zhao
- Walkability/Bikes – Commissioner Anderson

Chairman Anderson requested that members send the information to Andrew in advance of the next meeting distribution.

ICLEI

Chairman Anderson recommended that this matter be Tabled since Commissioner Dorfman was absent. Commissioner Leibowitz made a motion seconded by Commissioner Heller to Table this matter until the next meeting.

Coal Tar

Chairman Anderson provided a recap of the process on this matter. He reported that several months ago Trustee Struthers noted that the Commission was taking the correct approach by pursuing education instead of prohibition of coal tar. Later, he received contrasting comments from Trustee Struthers when she expressed her aggravation with the Commission's approach and noted that she did not agree with the educational approach. Shortly after that, Chairman Anderson began receiving phone calls from residents at home expressing their opposition and noting that he was harming their children by not recommending a ban on coal tar. The Commission was not influenced by the comments; and moved forward with their original recommendation which was then voted down by the Village Board by a vote of 1-5 with Trustee Jester being the only vote in favor. Chairman Anderson noted that this was a rejection of our statement of fact.

He noted that comments made by Trustee Seiden also surprised him. He explained that one of the challenges is that when statements of facts are rejected by a volunteer commission it is hard to have volunteers. He noted there is little doubt that this was a political vote based on emotion.

Commissioner Heller noted the Commission only looked at it from a scientific perspective and the data suggested there was not a problem. He suggested that we should also considered the politic side or the emotional side of the matter. He noted that as a member of the scientific community we do not always look outside of ourselves. We need to consider other aspects. He stated that he is disappointed with the Village Board's decision but ultimately it is their prerogative.

Commissioner Leibowitz asked if all the information was in front of you today, would you vote differently on our recommendation. Commissioner Heller responded that yes, he would have voted differently and we should consider a more holistic view point and take into account the politic considerations on future matters. He reminded the group not to lost sight of all the good work that the Commission has accomplished.

Commissioner Leibowitz noted that sometimes the information needs to be presented in a different manner. She suggested that our report could have directly acknowledged the public feedback that we received and separated that from the science.

Commissioner Zhao noted that we focused on the science in terms of chemistry and physics but we did not consider the social sciences. He suggested that the Commission broaden the facts that we consider.

Commissioner Heller noted that we also chose not to legislate against open fire pits, lawnmowers, weed killer, or chemical fertilizers, which are also polluters.

Commissioner Wolkenberg noted that it is obvious that members of the community care about this topic and he wondered if we could reach out to some of them for feedback.

Ms. Camilla Dadey stated that she actively opposed the Commission's recommendation but also noted that the opposition does not need to be antagonistic.

Commssioner Shalen noted that he felt the Board's decision was made before they read the Commission's report.

Chairman Anderson stated he has a very strong view that we do not become a political body. We undermine our credibility if we make this a political body. He advocated that we make it very clear to the Village Board what are views are.

Mr. Lichterman noted that he would just like to reassure the Commission members that votes by the Village Board are not known in advance of a meeting just like members of this body do not know the votes prior to our meetings.

Chairman Anderson recommended included this topic as a discussion item on the next agenda so that a resolution can be reached. Commissioner Leibowitz noted that she wanted to simply leave the discussion where it stands.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Lichterman
Assistant Village Manager