

**MEETING MINUTES  
SUSTAINABLE COMMISSION  
JANUARY 20, 2022**

A meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance were:

Present:

Maria Albulescu  
Don Anderson, Chairman  
Amy Call  
Dick Heller  
Bill Mertes  
Michael Shalen  
Deborah Tometz  
Brian Wolkenberg

Absent:

Karrah Krakoviak

Also present:

Andrew Lichterman, Assistant Village Manager (at Village Hall)

**Consideration of Minutes**

Commissioner Mertes moved, seconded by Commissioner Heller to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2021 Sustainability Commission. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Albulescu, Call, Heller, Mertes, Shalen, Tometz, Wolkenberg, Anderson (7)

NAYS: None (0)

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment received by email. There was no one present at Village Hall or on Zoom wishing to make a public comment.

Commissioner Albulescu noted she has enjoyed the Commission over the past three years, but is very busy as she is pursuing her MBA. She suggested filling her spot with a Deerfield resident that works at Walgreens.

**Business:**

**1. Green Region Compact 2**

- **Self-Assessment Framework – Water (Potable, Waste, Storm)**
  - **Q & A with Director of Public Works and Engineering, Robert Phillips**

Mr. Phillips provided an overview of the Public Works and Engineering departments. He explained 90% of what the public works department does is underground. The Village has two pumping stations that just pump storm water. The water reclamation facility is unique, as most municipalities feed into regional facilities. There are seven satellite pumping stations which flow via gravity to a wastewater treatment plant.

When the Village repairs or builds a roadway, they look at a number of factors including the material, the thickness of the various layers of pavement, whether the Village can just grind off the top layer, the traffic load, etc. The Village also looks at the infrastructure, how many water main breaks there have been, and the condition of the roads, sewers and utilities to determine whether they can resurface the road or if they have to reconstruct the road. The Village hires an infrastructure management service every three years to provide a surface rating on every road in the Village, so there is documented scientific data on the condition of each road. Mr. Phillips noted most streets in Deerfield have to be reconstructed after 20 years before they need to be resurfaced. Aside from the resurfacing or reconstruction costs, the Village has to consider the roadwork utility costs as well.

Commissioner Call asked whether the Village is using any permeable surfaces. Mr. Phillips explained permeable surfaces are cost prohibitive at this time due to the amount of excavation required. The Village is testing one permeable pavement parking lot on East River Road. Over the past 15 years, the Village has revised some of the reconstruction methodology to be more sustainable and less disruptive to the neighborhoods. They have used recycled materials, installed energy efficient lighting and have reduced the amount of fluoride and salt used for snow and ice control.

Mr. Phillips discussed the water reservoirs in the Village. The water from the Richfield reservoir pushes water directly into the distribution system and boosts pressure for the North Trail subdivision. The Hawthorn reservoir is used to fill the pumping station as well as provides additional storage. In 2020 and 2021, the Village completed the water system model based on where the pipes are located as well as the size and condition of the pipes. The Village also gathers information from fire flow analysis and uses all of the information for capital project planning.

All of the water comes in from Highland Park. If Highland Park were to have an issue with their pumping station or treatment plant, the Village still has plenty of storage. Mr. Phillips explained his department also analyzes water and sewer rates to ensure the rates are appropriate. They also look at system wide risk and resiliency as well as cyber terrorism. The Village is also in process of planning an emergency water connection from Northbrook.

Mr. Phillips noted the major things that cause the Village to replace a water main or install a new water main is the age of the pipe. The life cycle is about 100 years. Sometimes, the Village has a pipe that wasn't made with the best material or the materials are too small, which causes more frequent main breaks. The Village replaces about 1 percent of the water mains each year. The

EPA will require the Village to have a plan to replace all 900 lead services at a cost of \$9 – 10 million within the next 15 years.

The Village has a storm water master plan which helps determine the frequency of flooding to help with questions from residents as well as provides solutions to some of the front and backyard flooding issues, based on a 10-year storm. The storm water master plan studied 42 areas and the Village developed a capital plan. They encourage residents to reduce clutter risks which could help alleviate flooding.

Commissioner Call asked about outreach and public education. Mr. Phillips explained people need to understand more about storm water. He noted backyards are not intended to be dry after a storm. Mr. Phillips indicated people are no longer drinking tap water and bottled water is not good for the environment. Ch. Anderson noted the Commission held a Pepsi challenge in the past and could consider it for the future as well. The Village also has buckthorn removal programs.

Ch. Anderson suggested the Commission spend time at the next meeting prioritizing the various topics discussed and developing programming around them. Mr. Wolkenberg suggested forming sub-committees to take advantage in member's strengths and interests. Commissioner Tometz suggested creating a brochure about the GRC2 for distribution at the Farmer's Market.

## **2. Other Items for Discussion**

- **WRF Reclamation Facility Tour – Spring Date?**

The commissioners discussed a spring tour of the facility. The Commission decided that late morning on June 11 is the preferred date.

### **Public Comment**

There were no Public Comments in person, on Zoom or via email.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business or discussion, Commissioner Heller moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mertes seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Albulesco, Call, Heller, Mertes, Shalen, Wolkenberg, Anderson (7)

NAYS: None (0)

The next scheduled Sustainability Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Sustainability Commission

January 20, 2022

Page 4 of 4

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Cotton

Secretary