

**MEETING MINUTES  
SUSTAINABLE COMMISSION  
JUNE 17, 2021**

A meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance were:

Present:

Don Anderson, Chairman  
Maria Albulesco  
Amy Call (arrived 7:04 p.m.)  
Dick Heller (arrived 7:07 p.m.)  
Michael Shalen  
Deborah Tometz

Absent:

Karrah Krakoviak  
Bill Mertes  
Brian Wolkenberg

Also present:

Andrew Lichterman, Assistant Village Manager

**Consideration of Minutes**

Commissioner Shalen moved, seconded by Commissioner Tometz, to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2021 Sustainability Commission. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Albulesco, Shalen, Tometz, Anderson (4)

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.

**Business:**

**1. Curbside Composting Education Campaign and Programs**

• **Discussion with SWALCO Executive Director Walter Willis**

Ch. Anderson introduced Mr. Willis, to discuss the Village's composting program as part of the approach to solid waste management in the county and how the current recycling and organic recycling work. Mr. Willis noted Deerfield has had the best rollout in Lake County and is a model partnership, with the Go Green Deerfield group, the Village, waste hauler, communication

plan, Sustainability Commission and staff. The Village should be very proud of their accomplishments.

One initiative the Village is focusing on is the 1.35 per capita per day disposal rate. Disposal is the key metric because it is a better data source. If the number is driven down to represent a 60 percent recycling rate, that is the key metric that should be measured. Mr. Willis explained the disposal goal is taking the generation rate and multiplying it by 40 percent. Deerfield's rate is 1.56, so the first goal has been met. The new composting program will definitely move the needle. In May, the Village's diversion rate was 43 percent. The overall rate in 2018 was 34 percent.

Ch. Anderson asked about the differences between the disposal rate, diversion rate and recycling rate. Mr. Willis explained the diversion is the result of the curbside composting and recycling program diverting waste from the landfill. The three programs together are the Village's generation rate, which is all waste brought to the curb. The amount that gets diverted is the diversion rate

Commissioner Heller asked where the lawn bags are considered. Mr. Willis explained yard and food waste are combined as organics. Organics are tracked separately. In May, 14 percent was compostable and 29 percent was recycled. The remaining 57 percent is what was disposed. The Village generates 1.54 pounds of garbage in homes. Commissioner Heller asked about seasonality. Mr. Willis explained seasonality is always a factor because of the lack of yard waste. Food scraps will comprise most of the organic material in the winter.

Mr. Willis noted it is important to create access to programs as it is the key to the circular economy. SWALCO works with product and brand owners to make things easier to recycle and create a sustainable supply chain by recycling and composting. SWALCO plugs into bigger initiatives and it is educating people and encouraging them to get involved in these programs.

Commissioner Tometz explained a woman at her church spoke about people not taking part in composting or recycling because SWALCO bundles plastic and hazardous waste and throws it into the ocean. Mr. Willis explained the recycling industry is a \$30 billion industry. 70 percent of what is put to the curb is recycled in the US. Commissioner Call does not believe some plastic is recyclable. She noted some plastics have been taken by different recycling centers. Mr. Willis explained fiber, which is needed, is paper products and cardboard. The other big category is containers. Plastic bottles, such as milk bottles, are worth more than \$1 a pound. They are very valuable and are recovered at a 28 percent rate. Mr. Willis explained they are part of the US Plastics Pact and will be working more on education. Mr. Willis noted Deerfield recycles about 770 pounds every year. He urged people to recycle jars or containers.

Ch. Anderson noted any plastic containers should be put in the recycling bin. Mr. Willis suggested reading the guidelines on the SWALCO or Village website and then recycle. He reminded people to keep lids on everything, after food remnants are rinsed out. Ch. Anderson noted there has been a lot of confusion on what can be recycled. Some believe it is too complicated. The Commission has been recommending that people do not recycle food, foam or film. Mr. Willis noted the guidelines have images and people can always call.

Mr. Lichterman noted the Village is competitive in the pounds per capita per day (pcd) measurement. He noted the Commission has set a goal of achieving a 1.35 pcd. Mr. Willis noted that is the 2030 pcd goal for SWALCO, but believes the food scrap programs are key. Mr. Lichterman would like to see the pcd numbers every six months.

Commissioner Call noted her family of four has been composting for a while. They are struggling to fill one kitchen garbage bag a week. They always generated a low amount of garbage, but the composting made the amount even lower. Commissioner Call indicated her food composting bag was very heavy and believes increasing food composting would really affect the weight base per capita.

Ch. Anderson asked about electronics recycling. Mr. Willis explained they do not see a lot of electronics thrown away. Mr. Heller asked about recycling small appliances, as he was told to throw them away by Highland Park. Mr. Willis explained that program is funded by manufacturers of products. The covered devices are primarily TVs, computers and printers. They are unable to take anything that is not covered by law, because the other manufacturers do not want to pay.

He asked for the participation rates for composting at the curb. The hauler does not have the numbers, but would send out an intern once or twice a year to do a manual count. Mr. Willis suggested it may be easier for the driver to track rather than an intern.

- **Staff update on compost toolkits and video series**

Mr. Lichterman noted the videographer is working on a video. It will be animated with some real-life clips. He asked for volunteers that want to be in the video. Commissioner Call suggested also having kids in the video.

- **Electronic Collection Event – June 26, 2021, 8-2 p.m. at Public Works, 465 Elm Street, Deerfield, IL 60015**

Mr. Lichterman met with sustainability representatives and two members of Go Green. They brainstormed ideas for an educational flyer to hand out at the event. While they have the audience, they want to hand out compost educational materials and toolkits. The goal is to get more compost carts at the curb.

- **District 109 (Shepard Middle School) Compost Pilot Program**

Mr. Lichterman announced that District 109 had decided to move forward with a compost pilot program starting in August. That is a huge springboard for the Village. We will plan future partnerships with the schools around this program.

## **2. Care of Trees Initiatives**

- **Tree Walk Program**

Commissioner Call noted James Eaton is a horticulturalist working with the park district. He will weigh in his recommendations on the fall tree walk. He was okay with the proposed dates. It will take Mr. Eaton several weeks to get a feel for each location. She is waiting on his feedback. Commissioner Call noted the park district has a contact that knows how to make a trail tree. She thought the Village may be able to plant an oak tree and start to form it into a trail tree. Commissioner Call believes it will be a good, historical, educational event. Commissioner Heller suggested making educational videos on some of these events and using them to promote sustainability in the Village. Commissioner Call believes social media has been good from a Go Green perspective. She believes combining the Village's, park district and Go Green's social media would extend the reach. Commissioner Call also suggested a video on buckthorn.

- **50/50 Parkway Tree Program**

Mr. Lichterman noted that the program begins this summer and he will have an update on the program at the next meeting.

### **3. ComEd Energy Efficiency**

- **Home Energy Audits and Energy Efficiency Report**

Commissioner Shalen was impressed with the data in the ComEd graphic. During the pandemic, 56 businesses participated in the program. The Village was on track to far exceed the anticipated participation. There were more than \$500,000 paid in incentives and more than \$200,000 in savings in 2020. As we get back to normal, Commissioner Shalen hopes things pick up even more.

Ch. Anderson asked what is next for this initiative. Commissioner Shalen would like to continue what was done before. A lot of people are still apprehensive about people coming into their homes. He believes the promotions are really paying off. Commissioner Shalen believes this should be reengaged in the fall.

### **4. Other Items for Discussion**

- **Update re: Aggregation 2.0 Program – 100% Renewable Energy**

Mr. Lichterman is actively working on getting the program on the Village Board agenda.

### **Public Comment**

Moe Ban is interested in a tour of SWALCO facilities. He had questions on plastic recycling. From a Go Green perspective, he also receives a number of questions about what can be recycled.

He is looking for candidates to help with the Go Green ambassador program to talk with neighbors and helps get them started with curbside composting.

### **Adjournment:**

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

AYES: Albulesco, Call, Heller, Shalen, Tometz, Anderson (6)

NAYS: None (0)

The next scheduled Sustainability Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Cotton  
Secretary