

**MEETING MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION
July 13, 2023**

A meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held on July 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 206 at Village Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance were:

Present:

Don Anderson
Amy Call
Dick Heller
Michael Shalen
Deborah Tometz
Bill Mertes

Absent:

Maria Albuлесcu
Karrah Krakoviak

Also present:

Jessica Sciarretta, Administrative Intern

Consideration of Minutes

Chairman Anderson moved, seconded by Debbie Tometz to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2023, meeting of the Sustainability Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Business:

1. Recap: Compost bins

Ms. Sciarretta commented that Village staff handed out approximately 100 compost bins at the Public Works Open House. Additionally, she noted that the Village also donated 75 compost bins to Holy Cross Church who provided positive feedback regarding the program.

2. Upcoming: of July 29, Farmers Market Booth

Ms. Sciarretta reported on the Farmers Market Booth that the Sustainability Commission will be hosting on Saturday July 29. Ms. Sciarretta discussed that there will be three categories for the booth; composting, promotion of future events, and an opportunity for

residents to sign up for the ComEd Efficiency Program. Additionally, Ms. Sciarretta provided the commission members with native seed packets and an informational flyer. Ms. Sciarretta also noted that Commissioner Call will be providing her composting demonstration at the event. Chairman Anderson suggested that the commission keep the farmers market booth focused to a few items including the composting and energy efficiency and that promotion of the tree walk, Homegrown National Park, and the Spotlight Buckthorn Removal Hero Program be held for a later date. Commissioner Shalen commented that flyers will be helpful for residents to take home to read at a later time. Commissioners Call, Mertes, and Heller discussed the possibility of the commission having further composting demonstration materials. Commissioner Call stated that it would be beneficial to partner with Collective Resource for a future event on composting.

The Commissioners discussed additional signage, chairs and tables for the booth and reviewed the attendance roster. Ms. Sciarretta noted that she would send an email to the Commission summarizing the activities and schedule. Chairman Anderson requested that Ms. Sciarretta reach out to Commissioner Karkoviak to ask if she will be able to attend. Commissioner Shalen commented that he will not know if he is able to attend until Friday, July 28.

3. Upcoming: Fall Tree Walk

Commissioner Call suggested that we have the tree walk next year due to the difficulty of finding a day that works for the commission. Commissioner Shalen suggest a Spring tree walk event. The Commissioners agreed that Spring would be more feasible and this matter will be discussed further at a future meeting.

4. Upcoming: Buckthorn Removal Program, Healthy Hedges October 14, 2023

Ms. Sciarretta reported that the Buckthorn Removal program will be presented by Lake County Forest Preserves. Ms. Sciarretta noted that the Deerfield Library was unavailable on October 14, 2023, to host the informational event. The Commission agreed to use the Village Hall as the venue for the event instead. Mr. Mertes suggested that the Spotlight Buckthorn Removal Hero Program be promoted at the Buckthorn Removal Program: Healthy Hedges. Chairman Anderson, Commissioner Call and Commissioner Shalen confirmed that they will be able to attend the event on October 14, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Village Hall.

5. Discussion: of Biodegradable Oxygen Demand

Commissioner Call discussed a conversation that she had with a resident about Biodegradable Oxygen Demand (BOD). Commissioner Call asked if the Village of Deerfield tracks BOD and questioned if the numerical values of biodegradable oxygen demand may have lowered since the Village began offering composting to residents. Commissioner Call requested staff to look into this matter.

6. Other Items for Discussion: Recycling

Commissioner Shalen discussed National statistics relating to the publics lack of knowledge on how to recycle. He suggested that the Village continue promotion of

informational how-to videos on recycling in order to further resident knowledge. Ms. Sciarretta stated that she is working on a sustainability landing page for the website. She also stated that there will be a recycling subcategory where educational materials about recycling will be shared. She also stated that the Village will provide education on recycling via social media platforms.

7. Other Items for Discussion: Buckthorn Removal Hero Program

Ms. Sciarretta discussed the suggested criteria for the Buckthorn Removal Hero Program. The Commission discussed that there will need to be a minimum amount of Buckthorn removed for a resident to be considered a “Buckthorn Hero.” Commissioner Mertes suggested that the Commission review alternative plants for Buckthorn as barrier replacements. Commissioner Call suggested that the Village explore opportunities to have the cut down Buckthorn hauled away from the residents’ property. Chairman Anderson and Commissioner Call suggested that it would be beneficial to partner with local nurseries for a 50/50 program to offer residents replacements for Buckthorn.

8. Other Items for Discussion: ISEA Solar Tours

Ms. Sciarretta stated that The Village of Deerfield is partnering with Illinois Solar Education Association (ISEA) to host solar tours for residents to show off their solar homes and learn about the benefits of solar power. She stated that the event will take place September 30, 2023. Commissioner Call stated that she has signed up for the event and has uploaded a virtual tour of her solar panels.

9. Other Items for Discussion: Solsmart Designation

Ms. Sciarretta stated that the Village is actively obtaining a Solsmart Gold Designation. She explained that the designation aims to limit barriers to residents and property owners to receive solar panels. She also reported that the Board of Trustees approved a 50% reduction in price for base solar permit fees.

Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, Chairman Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next scheduled Sustainability Commission meeting will take place on August 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Sciarretta

Administrative Intern