

**MEETING MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
JANUARY 12, 2023**

A meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held on Thursday, January 12, 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

Absent:

Maria Albulescu
Karrah Krakoviak
Bill Mertes

Also present:

Andrew Lichterman, Assistant Village Manager / Director of Community Development

Consideration of Minutes

Commissioner Heller moved, seconded by Commissioner Shalen to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2022, meeting of the Sustainability Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Jenny Stadelman, an 11-year resident, attended the meeting and wants to learn more about sustainability within the Village. She expressed interest in possibly becoming a Sustainability Commission member in the future.

Business:

1. Recap: Water Education Seminar

Commissioner Anderson reported on the Water Education Seminar held on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at 10 a.m. at Deerfield Public Library. Mr. Anderson commended Commissioner Mertes on a job well done. Assistant Village Manager Andrew Lichterman reported there was a group of about 15 people who attended the program. He noted there were numerous questions from the audience, with home water filters being the most popular topic. Mr. Lichterman reported the issues of water reserves, the purpose of the water tower and the emergency water connection with Northbrook were also discussed. Mr. Anderson noted it was a small group with lots of questions. Mr. Lichterman reported that most attendees became aware of the event from D-Tales and the Library newsletter. Mr. Anderson stated the program was engaging and he suggested repeating the program again in the future. Commissioner Tometz suggested holding another iteration of the program in September or October. Commissioner Call suggested the first week of November. Mr. Lichterman reported that he will follow up with Commissioner Mertes for his input.

2. Upcoming: Ask the Arborist Program

Commissioner Call reported on the Ask the Arborist event to be held at the Deerfield Public Library on February 25, 2023, at 10 a.m. Mr. Lichterman stated other dates in March and April are also available. He noted the proposed February event date precludes the event from being promoted in the Village or Library newsletters due to publication deadlines. Ms. Call suggested mid-March may be ideal from a timeline perspective, as there will be ample time for tree maintenance to be done. She noted that date will allow for promotion of the event which is critical to boost attendance. She also suggested avoiding the last week of March due to spring break. Ms. Tometz suggested avoiding the Easter holiday as well. Mr. Lichterman stated that he will confirm the dates with the arborists and the library. Ms. Call stated the content of the program should be a question and answer format, with questions and pictures submitted beforehand. She listed potential categories which may include: pest management, planting (appropriate species), and tree care. Mr. Heller proposed promoting the 50/50 parkway tree program and the tree inventory as topic ideas. Ms. Call stated that she will create a list of topics and discuss them with the arborists. Mr. Anderson suggested including the option for attendees to ask questions from the floor. Mr. Lichterman noted there would be a portion of the program prepared ahead of time using questions or pictures received in advance. He reported there were very specific questions being asked at the most recent tree walk event, and this event can categorize them to keep the program/discussion fluid and on topic.

Mr. Heller asked about specific Village goals and programs that can be promoted. Mr. Lichterman noted the tree replacement program, tree maintenance and the effort to avoid monocultures by boosting variety should be promoted. Ms. Call suggested reviewing the existing tree ordinances during the program to further explain the Village's goals to attendees. Mr. Lichterman stated that he would like a staff member to be present to answer questions specific to Village policy, rather than have the arborist try to explain those. Mr. Anderson asked if Mr. Lichterman or Director of Public Works and Engineering Robert Phillips, could attend a Sustainability Commission meeting to provide a high-level review of tree ordinances and policies for the Commission members. Ms. Call asked about the tree inventory. Mr. Lichterman reported that this year's budget includes funding for a tree inventory, however it will be for trees on public property. Mr. Anderson asked if there was an estimate of the percentage of trees on private property within the Village. Mr. Lichterman reported approximately 70% of trees in the Village are on private property. He noted the new tree inventory will provide a much better baseline figure. Mr. Heller proposed a program around Earth Day or Arbor Day for kids to identify the trees in their yard as a way to get more people involved. Ms. Call suggested procuring brochures from the Morton Arboretum to distribute at the event.

3. Discussion of ComEd Energy Efficiency Report

Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Lichterman to summarize the report. Mr. Lichterman reported on the virtual home energy assessment and presented ComEd's video outlining this service. Mr. Shalen stated the video was informative in regards to how ComEd is able to survey the homeowner's assessment. He noted the virtual assessment will work for younger homeowners, while the in-home assessment will be preferred by older residents. He also noted the one appointment, and one visit program is streamlined. Ms. Call liked how the items were listed and the work that was done. Mr. Shalen liked how the ComEd report details the number of light bulbs replaced, and the specific types of work done to save energy. Mr. Shalen noted that ComEd advertises their residential

energy savings program on television, but the advertisements aren't as informative as the ones they produce for commercial businesses and efficiencies. Mr. Anderson asked if there is a time estimate from ComEd as to how long the assessments typically take to complete. Mr. Shalen noted the one-time visit makes the program more attractive to homeowners. Ms. Call and Mr. Heller reported that their home assessments took about an hour. Mr. Lichterman reviewed the flyer that was previously used to promote the program. He asked the commission members if they think the flyer is still sufficient or if it needs updating. Ms. Tometz asked if the flyer could be included in residential water bills. Mr. Lichterman responded that is an option. Mr. Shalen supported the idea of including the flyer in utility bills so that residents receive them in stages, which prevents overburdening ComEd with a deluge of requests. Mr. Anderson suggested emphasizing the one-step, one visit and the average time is still 2 hours. Mr. Heller asked if the savings listed on the flyer, \$377, is still the same figure. Ms. Call suggested adding both the virtual and in-home option to the flyer. Mr. Anderson asked if the flyer should include ComEd's new logo. Ms. Call noted that some residents may not trust the information if it includes the new logo; they may think it is a scam. Mr. Shalen stated that he doesn't believe lots of changes are necessary, since the program was successful before.

Ms. Stadelman asked if the Commission promotes the program to businesses in Deerfield. Mr. Shalen noted that ComEd has taken a proactive approach to promoting the assessments to businesses. Mr. Heller noted that ComEd is graded by the state on how much electricity they have save. Mr. Lichterman noted that small business meeting next week could include a mention of the ComEd program. Mr. Anderson stated that the Commission could ask the DBR Chamber of Commerce to include information on the program in their publications. Ms. Tometz suggested including the average percentage residents saved rather than a dollar amount. Mr. Lichterman noted that the flyer would need to be reconfigured for commercial entities. Mr. Shalen noted that the word of mouth from residents participating in the home assessment program helps encourage enrollment. Mr. Lichterman stated ComEd does not have information to share in regards to comparisons with other municipalities. Mr. Lichterman reported that it was Deerfield that was the impetus for ComEd to create their municipal reports in the first place. Mr. Heller suggested hosting other municipalities sustainability groups to build consensus on initiatives. Ms. Call reported that the various Go Green groups from neighboring communities do have contact and share initiatives and ideas. Mr. Lichterman stated that some communities are focusing on different initiatives, and that sometimes they are not related. Ms. Call emphasized that partnerships help build regional efforts on sustainable issues.

4. Other Items for Discussion

Electric Aggregation – Renewable Energy Credits

Mr. Lichterman reported on the Electric Aggregation Program. He noted the Village Board approved the new program about one year ago. Mr. Lichterman pointed out the program it is now a community benefit program where residents all pay the same rate. Mr. Lichterman reported the new program is for three years and the Village will receive a \$60,000 civic contribution. Mr. Lichterman reported the contribution will go towards the purchase of Renewable energy credits RECs equivalent to 23,530,000 kWh which offsets the electricity consumption of 29% of eligible residential homes, which represents 10% of Deerfield's electricity footprint.

Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Group Report

Mr. Lichterman noted the report from the gas-powered leaf blower group is about to be finalized.

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He reported the report is close to being completed and will be brought to the Commission for review. He noted the report will not have a recommendation, but rather will be a fact-finding document written by various subject matter experts.

Adjournment

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

The next scheduled Sustainability Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Van Dusen
Deputy Village Clerk