Regular EQC Meeting – 7:00

1. Call To Order

2. Review of Minutes
   - November 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes

3. Hear From the Audience

4. Old Business
   A. Continued Discussion of Plastic Bag Ban
   B. Continued Discussion of Neonicotinoid Pesticides

5. New Business
   A. Earth/Arbor Day Celebration 2019

6. Good of the Order
   A. Verbal Report on Community and Sustainability Committee
   B. Verbal Report on Green Business Award

7. Next Meeting – February 21, 2019

8. Adjourn.

The Village of Northbrook is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of this meeting or the facilities, are requested to contact Greg Van Dahm or Debra J. Ford (847-664-4014 and 847-664-4013, respectively) promptly to allow the Village of Northbrook to make reasonable accommodations for those persons. Hearing impaired individuals may call the TDD number, 847-564-8465, for more information.

Jeremy Reynolds
The Environmental Quality Commission will continue their discussion of a ban on single-use plastic bag at their January 17, 2019 meeting. For this meeting, staff has reached out to counterparts at the City of Evanston and the Village of Oak Park.

Staff has spoken with representatives of the City of Evanston on the ban the community implemented in 2015. Their ban on single-use bans applies to businesses that have more than 10,000 square feet of space which affects 30 businesses in Evanston. The City of Evanston has said that the 30 businesses are in compliance with the Ordinance banning single-use plastic bags, so there is very little enforcement. With that, the City of Evanston stated that most, if not all, businesses have provided a heavier weight plastic bag and thus their ban is not having the desired effect. They are in the process of reviewing their ban to see when improvements can be made.

Staff has also reached out to the Village of Oak Park and spoken with their Sustainability Coordinator. Oak Park implemented a $0.10 per bag fee on single-use bags, both plastic and paper. The fee collected is split between business owners and the Village. The portion of the fee retained by business owners is used to defray their costs for implementing the plan. The portion of the fee due to the Village is remitted monthly with other fees owed to the Village and is used to fund sustainability programs and providing re-usable bags to residents and businesses.

The Oak Park single-use bag fee program applies to businesses of 5,000 square feet or greater, of which approximately 30 businesses meet that criteria. Oak Park states that the feedback on the program has been largely positive with one of the main reasons being that the program is fee based and not a tax which requires fewer transactions on the businesses ends. Oak Park states that they feel their bag fee has had the desired effect in reducing the use of plastic and paper single use bags.

Discussion of a ban on single-use plastic bags will continue on January 17, 2019.
TO: Environmental Quality Commission  
FROM: Matt Morrison, Assistant Director of Public Works  
DATE: January 15, 2019  
SUBJECT: Review of the topic of Neonicotinoid Pesticides

The Village Board referred the topic of pesticides called neonicotinoids to the Environmental Quality Commission for its review of the topic and the investigation of ways that their use can be reduced or eliminated, if possible. Neonicotinoids are found in the consumer, commercial, and industrial pesticides used in applications ranging from agricultural properties to residential gardens.

The Commission’s prior discussions of neonicotinoids found that a ban on the pesticide sale in town would be ineffective given that they are readily available for consumers at various stores and no contractor’s license is needed to apply it. Furthermore the Commission did not agree with an outright ban on neonicotinoid pesticides as there are legitimate uses for them, such as treating trees for the Emerald Ash Borer, so long as they are used responsibly. The Commission’s discussion focused on educational materials that can be provided to the public and other organizations. Discussion of the educational materials will continue at the January 17, 2019 Environmental Quality Commission meeting.
TO: Environmental Quality Commission
FROM: Matt Morrison, Assistant Director of Public Works
DATE: January 15, 2019
SUBJECT: Earth and Arbor Day Celebration

The Village will host its annual Earth/Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, April 13, 2019. The event opens to the public at 9:00 a.m. through noon at Village Green Park. Setup for the event is between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. With the earlier than usual date this year, there are three meetings (January, February, and March) before the event.

In the past the EQC has participated in this event having a table/booth staffed by members of the Commission highlighting subject matter the commission is working on at the time including rain gardens, coal tar, the Sustainability Plan, and the Monarch Project.

With that, questions for the Commission to consider regarding the Earth/Arbor Day celebration include:

1. Does the Commission wish to participate in this year’s Earth/Arbor Day celebration?
2. If so what topic or topics does the Commission wish to highlight at the Earth/Arbor Day celebration?
3. What materials does the Commission wish to distribute at the Earth/Arbor Day celebration?
4. Who from the Commission is available to staff the table/booth?