

1 APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
2 COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
3 VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK  
4 JANUARY 19, 2023  
5

6 Pro-tem Chairperson Weiss called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. in the Village Hall,  
7 Terrace Room. Present were Members Rod Burton, Becky Lee, Aaron Stash, Ethan Stepen  
8

9 **Also Present:** Sustainability Coordinator Liaison Tessa Murray; Director of Development &  
10 Planning Services Michaela Kohlstedt  
11

12 **Late:** Jeremy Reynolds (5:40), Sandra Dold (5:45)  
13

14 **Absent:** Ying Wang  
15

16 **Guests:** Jill Franklin, Shital Pandit, Kelly Durov  
17

18 **Review and Approval of Minutes**

19 A motion was made to approve the November 17, 2022 draft Sustainability Meeting  
20 Minutes by Member Lee and seconded by Member Burton. The motion passed by voice  
21 vote.  
22

23 **Hear from the Audience**

24 None  
25

26 **Community Planning Report**

27 The Board of Trustees will be holding a Community and Sustainability Committee Meeting  
28 on January 24, 2023. They will discuss the Climate Action Plan Priorities and Single-Use Bag  
29 Tax.  
30

31 **Community Moment Assignments**

32 Liaison Murray stated that the Sustainability Committee needs topic ideas and volunteer  
33 speakers for four dates to present the Community Moment at the beginning of the Board of  
34 Trustee meetings. It was decided that:

- 35 February 7, Member Lee – Recycling
- 36 March 14, Member Stash – Food waste action month
- 37 April 25, Chairman Reynolds – Earth month, Arbor Day
- 38 May 23, to be decided – Bicycle month  
39

40 The presenters and topics for the months of May, June and July will be discussed at next  
41 month's meeting. Presentations should last not more than five minutes.  
42

43 **Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Regulations Update**

44 The Group Working Report on Leaf Blowers was published in December 2022. The report  
45 findings are included in the packet. The Board reviewed the final report on January 10,  
46 2023. The Board requests feedback from the Sustainability Committee on policy details.

1 Four potential pathways were presented in the report. The Board selected Option 2: An 8-  
2 week window during the fall clean-up season and 4-week window during the spring clean-  
3 up season when gas-powered leaf blowers may be utilized. Gas-powered leaf blowers would  
4 be banned during the summer and winter months. The recommendations from the  
5 Sustainability Commission are due March 1, 2023.

6  
7 Liaison Murray presented the following considerations for membership to discuss:

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9 1 – Phase-out period:

- 10 a) 1 year, 3 year, 5 year

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12 Response:

- 13 Member Dold – 1 year  
14 Member Weiss – 3 years, due to the big financial burden on businesses. It is a big ask.  
15 Member Lee – 1 year, starting with municipal  
16 Member Stash – 1 year  
17 Member Burton - 3-5 year implementation due to the cost burden and paperwork  
18 Chairman Reynolds – 3 years with incentive for early compliance

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20 2 – Enforcement procedure

- 21 a) Police  
22 b) Code Enforcement  
23 c) Combination of both

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25 Response:

26 Membership was in agreement that it should be code enforcement responding to  
27 complaints.

28  
29 3 – Landscaper registration procedure

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31 Response:

32 Membership agreed the Village should register landscapers, and collaborate with  
33 surrounding communities to create a list of landscapers working in the area to reach out to  
34 for registration. The registration form should include an acknowledgement of the GPLB  
35 regulation, and a requirement for at least one marked vehicle to be present with indication  
36 of the name of the landscaping company while doing business in the Village.

37  
38 4 – Citation process

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40 Response:

41 Membership agreed first-time violators should not be fined but rather sent a warning letter.  
42 If a violator is subject to a complaint a second time, the violator is to be fined.

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44 5 – Citation target

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46 Response:

47 Membership is unanimous in their vote for no exemption for homeowners.

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6 – Exemptions

- a) Park District
- b) Golf courses
- c) Roof gutter cleaners
- d) Paver/Repair/Patching contractors

Response:

Membership requests more information from the Park District and golf courses. Membership is unanimous in their vote for no exemption for 6c or 6d.

7 – When Gas Powered Lawn Blowers (GPLB) are allowed (e.g. fall and spring, if Option 2 is selected) what days/hours shall be permitted?

Response:

The Commission recommends a continuation of the current noise ordinance in terms of what times of days to allow leaf blower operation: 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays, and 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and nationally recognized holidays.

8 – Additional specifications to consider:

- a) Intake process where violations may be reported through use of videos or photos
- b) Inclusion of electric blowers powered by portable gas generator in ban

Response:

The majority of Commissioners agree that the Village may want to look into reporting violations via photos/videos. The majority of Commissioners agree with the inclusion of electric blowers powered by portable gas generator in the seasonal ban.

9 – Incentive program recommendations

Liaison Murray referred to page 7 of the Final Report that it costs total approximately \$11,225 to fully outfit one two-person crew. Membership had a short discussion on the amount of \$11,225 and what it included. Some members felt this was a very large amount of money.

Liaison Murray noted page 9 of the Final Report lists considerations for incentive programs. She asked that membership come prepared for the next meeting.

10 – Education, messaging and outreach recommendations

Liaison Murray referred slides that were displayed at the meeting. Member Burton likes the Village newsletter and social media. Member Lee likes lawn signs and a combination of everything that includes door hangers and information for landscapers. She wants to focus on noise pollution and the environment. Member Stash agreed. Membership wants to emphasize the pollution associated with GPLB.

Member Burton will not be at the next meeting. His paperwork for new technology will be in the DropBox. Member Burton stated that there are new gas powered efficient blowers on

1 the market that are 4 cycle with 65 decibels. He states we have to allow for improvements  
2 in technology.

3

4 **Old Business**

5 None

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7 **New Business**

8 Member Stash asked if the Village will proceed with No Mow May for 2023. Liaison Murray  
9 stated that this is a great conversation starter. Member Stash stated that Spring Yard  
10 Cleanup and No Mow May are a contradiction of each other. Liaison Murray stated that  
11 many residents voiced opinions on No Mow May last year.

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13 **Remarks for the Good of the Order**

14 None

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16 **Next Scheduled Meeting**

17 The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission is scheduled for Thursday,  
18 February 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

19

20 **Adjourn**

21 A motion was made by Member Stash and seconded by Member Weiss at 7:27 p.m. to  
22 adjourn the Sustainability Commission January 2023 meeting. The motion passed by voice  
23 vote.

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25 Respectfully submitted,

26 /s/ Sue Anetsberger

27 Recorder