

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK
JANUARY 19, 2023

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

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

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

Absent: Ying Wang

Guests: Jill Franklin, Shital Pandit, Kelly Durov

Review and Approval of Minutes

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

Hear from the Audience

None

Community Planning Report

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

Community Moment Assignments

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

- February 7, Member Lee – Recycling
- March 14, Member Stash – Food waste action month
- April 25, Chairman Reynolds – Earth month, Arbor day
- May 23, to be decided – Bicycle month

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

Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Regulations Update

The Group Working Report on Leaf Blowers was published in December 2022. The report findings are included in the packet. The Board reviewed the final report on January 10, 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:
8

9 1 – Phase-out period:

10 a) 1 year, 3 year, 5 year

11 Response:

12 Member Dold – 1 year

13 Member Weiss – 3 years, due to the big financial burden on businesses. It is a big ask.

14 Member Lee – 1 year, starting with municipal

15 Member Stash – 1 year

16 Member Burton - 3-5 year implementation due to the cost burden and paperwork

17 Chairman Reynolds – 3 years with incentive for early compliance

18

19 2 – Enforcement procedure

20 a) Police

21 b) Code Enforcement

22 c) Combination of both

23

24 Response:

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

27

28 3 – Landscaper registration procedure

29

30 Response:

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

36

37 4 – Citation process

38

39 Response:

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

42

43 5 – Citation target

44

45 Response:

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

1
2 6 – Exemptions

3 a) Park District
4 b) Golf courses
5 c) Roof gutter cleaners
6 d) Paver/Repair/Patching contractors

7
8 Response:

9 Membership requests more information from the Park District and golf courses.

10 Membership is unanimous in their vote for no exemption for 6c or 6d.

11
12 7 – When Gas Powered Lawn Blowers (GPLB) are allowed (e.g. fall and spring, if Option 2 is
13 selected) what days/hours shall be permitted?

14
15 Response:

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

20
21 8 – Additional specifications to consider:

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

24
25 Response:

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

29
30 9 – Incentive program recommendations

31 Liaison Murray referred to page 7 of the Final Report that it costs total approximately
32 \$11,225 to fully outfit one two-person crew. Membership had a short discussion on the
33 amount of \$11,225 and what it included. Some members felt this was a very large amount
34 of money.

35
36 Liaison Murray noted page 9 of the Final Report lists considerations for incentive programs.
37 She asked that membership come prepared for the next meeting.

38
39 10 – Education, messaging and outreach recommendations

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

45
46 Member Burton will not be at the next meeting. His paperwork for new technology will be
47 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

6

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.

12

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

14 None

15

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.

24

25 Respectfully submitted,

26 /s/ Sue Anetsberger

27 Recorder