

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION  
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK  
JULY 15, 2021

Chairman Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Terrace Room. Present were Members Michael Beeftink, Brian Bruce, Becky Lee, Scott Robson and Sandra Weiss

**Also Present:** Sustainability Coordinator Tessa Murray

**Absent:** Dale Duda

**Guests:** None

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2021 meeting with one correction on P. 1, Line 40 under **Northbrook Climate Action Plan Update** to “The CAP draft will be completed for review...”. The motion was made by Member Lee and seconded by Member Robson. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Liaison Murray announced that Member Duda was resigning from EQC due to health issues. EQC sends goods wishes to Member Duda and thanks her for the lasting sustainability programs she started in Northbrook. A search for another member will be underway.

**Hear From the Audience:**

None

**Community Planning Report:**

The preliminary meeting to amend the zoning language for SolSmart Gold requirement went well and once these changes are official we will be able to apply for SolSmart Gold.

There is now a rain barrel at the demonstration rain garden.

**Leafblower Update:**

Liaison Murray stated that GoGreen Wilmette has been hosting leafblower meetings. A summary document was included in the packet. There were differences between the communities on if they wanted to ban gas powered leaf blowers seasonally or year round, whether it was based off emissions or decibels, and who would be responsible for the fine.

Northbrook does not require landscapers to register with the Village for landscaping. Member Weiss would like something offered to landscapers to incentivize rather than be punitive. Chairman Reynolds stated that the Village cannot micro manage landscaping businesses, but we can worry about the noise. There are added costs to the landscapers to

move forward. Landscapers are worried that they will have to pass on the costs to their customers and they may lose those customers. Member Beeftink stated if the Village bans blowers, would it be for noise or emissions. Membership asked how intrusive should the Village be. There are also chain saws, string trimmers, aerators and other machinery that could fall in this category. Member Beeftink stated that two stroke engines run dirty. Landscapers would be required to carry two types of gasoline. Liaison Beeftink stated that residential and commercial batteries are the same. They are lithium batteries that need to be recycled.

Liaison Murray stated that the Board wanted the topic on the EQC's agenda due to resident emails in support of a ban. No recommendation was made at tonight's meeting. Chairman Reynolds asked that everyone review the summary sheet for the next meeting and pick out what is palatable. He worries about the enforcement issue. Liaison Murray will resend the materials. Membership favored education and incentives along with communication and messaging.

Membership was very pleased with the presentation from the Mosquito Abatement District. Mosquitos tested positive for West Nile Virus in Northfield and Evanston for the first time this summer on July 14, 2021. Northbrook utilizes integrated vector control techniques and has not needed to perform adult spray control this year or last.

Member Robson asked if there were regulations regarding rain barrels. He noticed that his filter was old. Discussion followed. Liaison Murray will follow up with a post for homeowners with rain barrels to check the filters.

#### **Updates on Other Items:**

##### **a) Communication Initiatives & Messaging**

Liaison Murray stated that she is planning a calendar with social media posts for the next three months and asked for suggestions. The material is vetted by Kylie Cerk, Communications Specialist, for the Village. Member Weiss asked that a post inviting folks out to the Somme Prairie be included.

##### **b) Solar Permit Data**

Liaison Murray updated the Commission on solar permit data and data for Northbrook's waste collection. Not many permits were issued, possibly related to the fact that there were no new renewable energy credits from the State.

Liaison Murray suggested that a small section of EQC meetings be devoted to include current events that relate to the CAPT.

Trustee Israel suggests that Commission Members contact their state senators on thoughts regarding the renewable energy bill that is currently halted in the State legislature.

The Pace Bus strategic plan calls for adding 200 new fossil fuel powered buses, 78 of which are diesel buses. Pace would add 15 new diesels in year 2022 with no new electric buses within five

years. Members can visit the Pace website and leave comments. Liaison Murray will post the information on social media for residents to comment.

**c) Recycling & Waste Data**

Plastic recycling – The potential opportunity for plastics recycling might still exist. A business looking to come to Northbrook with a 6B is still in communication with the Village. The 6B is back on the Village Board’s agenda in August.

Landfill data is significantly larger because of the new calculation. Recycling data looks the same. Textile recycling no longer requires the orange bag. Fill any bag or box with a label and place outside a front door. The items will be collected at the time trash will be collected. Composting and E-waste remain the same. The way items are calculated was changed.

Member Lee asked why emission reduction goals are related to the 2010 emissions. Liaison Murray stated that the baseline assessment looked at 2010, 2013 and 2018. 2010 is a significant 35% reduction of emissions between 2010 and 2025. We are following the Paris Climate Accord goal. It is the way the consultant did the projections for the climate mitigation.

Member Lee questioned under the bullet points for the CAP what is considered reusables for a restaurant or sustainable take-out. There is an action to explore the potential of a program like a delivery service program.

Liaison Murray has not yet found the answer to where electronic waste goes (e-waste) but is still looking.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

**Good of the Order:**

The Outdoor Community Garden is doing well. More plots are filled than ever. Sue Schmittroth (founding member and garden advisor) passed away. She will be missed. A garden will be renamed in her honor. Member Bruce is reaching out to her family for approval.

Member Bruce is adjutant for the American Legion. A music event is taking place on July 29, 2021 behind the Landmark Inn to raise money for some needy cause. Previously money has been raised for Family Service and the Food Pantry.

A family picnic for Legion members is planned for July 22nd and his band will also play Shermerfest. The band is called Northbrook School of Music and Beer.

**Next Meeting:**

The next regular meeting of the EQC is scheduled for Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 7 p.m.

A motion was made by Member Bruce and seconded by Member Robson to adjourn the EQC July 15, 2021 meeting at 8:03 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Adjourn:**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sue Anetsberger

Recorder