

1 MINUTES OF THE
2 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION
3 VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK
4 AUGUST 19, 2021

5
6 Chairman Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Terrace
7 Room. Present were Members Michael Beeftink, Becky Lee, and Sandra Weiss

8
9 **Also Present:** Sustainability Coordinator Tessa Murray; Director of Development & Planning
10 Services Michaela Kohlstedt

11
12 **Absent:** Brian Bruce, Scott Robson

13
14 **Guests:** None

15
16 **Review and Approval of Minutes**

17 A motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2021 meeting with 2 corrections on P. 3,
18 Line 10 and Line 16 should read "Member **Lee**" not Member Weiss. A spelling correction
19 under Good and Welfare should read **Sue Schmittroth**. A motion was made by Member
20 Weiss and seconded by Member Beeftink. The motion was approved by unanimous voice
21 vote.

22
23 **Hear From the Audience**

24 None

25
26 **Community Planning Report**

27 The Plan Commission unanimously recommended approval for promoting solar panels on
28 rooftops including flat roofs. Director Kohlstedt will check the exact language that was
29 approved by the Plan Commission and report back to the committee. The item will go to the
30 full Board on September 14, 2021.

31
32 Liaison Murray shared a map created by GIS staff that shows the location of every pollinator
33 garden documented in incorporated Northbrook. It was discovered that The Trail Through
34 Time is marked in the wrong location. Liaison Murray wants to discover if there is a
35 potential wild life corridor that runs through the area. To have an approved pollinator
36 garden one must have at least three milk weed plants and one other native plant that
37 provides nectar for an adult monarch and a verbal commitment for low usage of pesticides.

38
39 Member Weiss stated that ECQ should encourage schools to plant pollinator gardens.
40 Liaison Murray will try to get the schools included.

41
42 **Leafblower Update**

43 Chairman Reynolds referred to information in the packet where some communities are
44 more punitive than others with regards to leaf blowers. He liked the idea of early spring and
45 late fall exemptions for leaf blowers. He is comfortable with a ban on two-stroke engines
46 with the exception of chain saws and snow blowers. Chairman Reynolds does not want to
47 "pit neighbor against neighbor". He feels the issue will be complaint driven. Member Lee

1 stated she does not feel that she is not in a comfortable position to make a
2 recommendation and would like the Sustainability Commission to review. Membership had
3 a discussion if leaf blower issues are decibel based or emission based issues. Member Weiss
4 stated that leaf blowers are both decibel and emissions harmful. Member Bieftink suggests
5 that two-stroke engines are the issue. Director Kohlstedt suggested that the Commission
6 look at the matrix as a collective and see what other towns have recommended. Chairman
7 Reynolds does not want to have an ordinance that is punitive with a fine. Director Kohlstedt
8 stated that there could be an adjudication process. Member Lee would like to start with
9 steps towards attainable goals. Member Lee is in favor of a small bite approach towards
10 attainable goals. Chairman Reynolds favors a seasonal exemption with sunset clause and a
11 ban on two-stroke leaf blowers and string cutters. The Commission would like more
12 feedback from the Village Board and is concerned about enforcement. Member Lee would
13 like to see landscapers register with the Village. Director Kohlstedt will have a discussion
14 with Chief Kennedy and Jennifer Maisch on enforcement.
15

16 **Green Steward Spotlight**

17 A Green Steward draft website was included in the packet. Membership was given the
18 opportunity to make comments. Comments were supportive. Director Kohlstedt stated it
19 will shine a light on everyone doing wonderful things within the community.
20

21 **Updates on Other Items:**

22 **a) Communication Initiatives & Messaging**

23 Liaison Murray stated that she will plan a post on the benefits of clover in a lawn.
24

25 Liaison Murray announced the new electrical aggregation program. Residents will receive
26 letters introducing the program. The Village newsletter will clarify the benefits. The Village
27 approved a 36 month agreement with MC Squared Energy Services, LLC (mc2). Participation
28 is optional. The savings collected will be used by the Village towards sustainability initiatives.

29 Liaison Murray urged membership to share and pass out information on the plan.

30 Northbrook is part of the North Shore Electricity Aggregation Consortium. Liaison Murray
31 and Director Kohlstedt explained the differences between high energy and low energy users
32 and how it related to the plan.
33

34 Social Media posts include: 1) heat advisory reminding individuals to check on their
35 neighbors; 2) tips on summer safety with regards to West Nile Virus; 3) Emergency Alert
36 System Tests; 4) Paper recycling; 5) Somme Woods State Nature Reserve; 6) New recycling
37 guidelines from Waste Management were shared with membership. Plastic types 1-5 are
38 acceptable. Aerosol cans cannot be recycled; 7) UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
39 Action Change calls for immediate political action for decarbonization.
40

41 Member Lee stated that Red solo cups are not recyclable and to urge Flamingo Friday
42 events to use cups that can be recycled.
43

44 **b) Solar Permit Data**

45 June Solar Permit Data – No data to report.
46

1 Pace Bus will not add any diesel fossil fuel powered buses to their fleet this year or in 2022.
2 They are looking into electrifying their bus fleet.

3

4 **c) Recycling & Waste Data**

5 Our waste data has been updated by Waste Management

6

7 Membership is urged to apply for a seat on the Sustainability Commission. EQC will be more
8 deeply tied to doing things through the lens of the CAP. The Sustainability Commission will
9 have seven commissioners with a non-voting seat held by a local youth. The youth position
10 must be applied for.

11

12 **Old Business:**

13 None

14

15 **New Business:**

16 None

17

18 **Good of the Order:**

19 **Next Meeting:**

20 The next regular meeting of the EQC is scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 7 p.m.

21

22 A motion was made by Member Beeftink seconded by Member Weiss to adjourn the EQC
23 August 19, 2021 meeting at 8:12 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote.

24

25 **Adjourn:**

26 Respectfully submitted,

27 /s/ Sue Anetsberger

28 Recorder

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30

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