

1 APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
2 COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
3 VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK  
4 OCTOBER 21, 2023  
5

6 Chairman Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Terrace  
7 Room. Present were Members Sandra Dold, Becky Lee, Bernadette Knight, Aaron Stash,  
8 Ethan Stepen, Sandra Weiss  
9

10 **Also Present:** Director of Planning Services Jonathan Mendel  
11

12 **Absent:** Ying Wang  
13

14 **Guests:** Shital Pandit  
15

16 **Review and Approval of Minutes**

17 A motion was made by Member Stash and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the  
18 September 21, 2023 Sustainability Commission meeting minutes. The motion passed by  
19 voice vote.  
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21 **Hear from the Audience/Public Comments**

22 Ms. Pandit asked that the Village create a dashboard to post current Sustainability projects.  
23 She would like to be able to follow the initiatives.  
24

25 **Community Planning Report**

26 Pumpkin Smash will take place on Saturday, November 4, 2023, noon – 3 p.m. at  
27 Northbrook Court. Member Stash, Member Weiss and Chairman Reynolds volunteered to  
28 help.  
29

30 Member Weiss volunteered for the November 28, 2023 Community Moment – Food Waste.  
31

32 Director Mendel reported that the job posting for a Village Sustainability Coordinator will  
33 appear this week on a number of different formats. Director Mendel will send the posting to  
34 the Sustainability Commissioners so that they may share with their colleagues.  
35

36 The redevelopment of Northbrook Court is proceeding. It is a planned redevelopment  
37 review process with sustainability items included from the Climate Action Plan (CAP).  
38

39 There are several small development projects within the Village.  
40

41 The Zoning Code update process continues.  
42

43 A seventeen bed memory care facility will be built for patients with dementia. This will be a  
44 private facility built by a private developer.  
45

46 The Tesla dealership broke ground. It is due to open in Summer 2024.

Director Mendel stated there would be no discussion of statistics. Once a new Village Waste Hauler is named and a new Sustainability Coordinator is hired, a new platform for collection data may be introduced.

#### **New June Environmental Event Planning**

Director Mendel reviewed a motion passed at the September 2023 Sustainability Commission meeting stating the Village Earth Day celebration would be renamed and rebranded to World Environment Day, to be held on any Saturday in June beginning in the year 2024. Director Mendel stated that the item still needs to go to the Village Manager's office and brought before the Board. The Board has been busy with the Northbrook Court Redevelopment Project and may not have the time to study the issue until January 2024. This may not leave enough time for the June 2024 date proposed by the Sustainability Commission. Director Mendel believes it is in the best interest of the Commission to move forward with a development plan for either June 2024 or June 2025.

Discussion took place on whether membership was committed and had the capacity to be substantive members if the event was approved for June 2024. The lack of a Village Sustainability Coordinator at the present time also poses a difficulty. Staff involvement at present is minimal.

Membership was in agreement to resurrect the event in a new format; redevelop the event and budget it is an opportunity to connect with the community. The focus will be on the environment. Membership seeks to work in hand with Go Green and the Library. Membership also saw value in working with the Northbrook Garden Club if interest and dates coalign. It was also suggested that Membership reach out to paleBLUEdot.

Member Lee asked if the event could be service oriented. Neighborhood clean-up could still be a focus.

Director Mendel suggested that membership further flush out the ideas discussed tonight for the November meeting. He stated at this time planning is only framework for a future event. Membership agreed that the event does not have to replicate what has been done in the past.

Membership agreed that the event should have a kid focus, a focus on the benefits of bicycling; a feature on what the Village is working on related to the CAP. There is consensus that a new location would benefit the new rebranding. The Village Hall-Library Campus is desirable as it is host to the Community Garden and the Rain/Pollinator Garden. There is ample parking. No permits would be required.

Member Dold stated that if vendors are desired for a June 2024 event, there would have to be vendor commitment by the end of this calendar year.

Member Weiss suggests a table with information on Buckthorn eradication.

1 Member Dold suggested the theme of “Carbon Reduction”. Membership is asked to email  
2 Director Mendel before the November meeting detailed materials relating to the extent of  
3 the newly proposed event. After discussion at the November meeting Director Mendel will  
4 have a clearer idea of incorporating the staffing needs and cost estimates.

5  
6 Membership agreed that the new event could be relatively smaller with an environmental  
7 focus.

#### 8 9 **Buckthorn Discussion - continued**

10 Director Mendel reiterated the motion made by the Sustainability Commission for the  
11 Village Board to explore additional incentive and educational programs to remove  
12 Buckthorn cooperatively with an end period of five years at which time regulatory  
13 enforcement is considered. The motion will be forwarded to the Village Board for  
14 discussion. The Board will give policy direction back. If the Board is interested in pursuing  
15 the project, it would be sent to staff for further investigation.

16  
17 Director Mendel stated that this is a big regulatory ask. The scale of the problem is huge. It  
18 would have to be a complaint based process in the beginning with no punitive enforcement.

19  
20 Member Knight brought in a live sample of a female Buckthorn branch with a significant  
21 amount of berries attached. She stated that many neighboring communities are holding  
22 programs at their respective libraries on Buckthorn, an invasive species.

23  
24 Member Knight would like more information on Wheeling’s Buckthorn program related to  
25 the number of complaints received. Member Knight suggests an online form on the Village  
26 website where residents could report on the location of Buckthorn. She stated Lake County  
27 has 52% Buckthorn and believes the focus should be on the big trees first.

28  
29 Member Knight’s suggestions are: 1) form on Village website; 2) promote free Buckthorn  
30 pickup; 3) have a lending library of tools for Buckthorn removal; 4) educate the public.  
31 Member Knight wants to anticipate how many reports are received before it becomes  
32 enforceable.

#### 33 34 **Remaining Scheduled 2023 Meetings Discussion**

35 Membership was in agreement to hold a November 16, 2023 Sustainability Commission  
36 meeting. Discussion took place on whether to hold a December meeting. Depending on the  
37 development of events at the November meeting, a decision will be made at that time on  
38 whether to hold a meeting in December. Date and location would be discussed.

#### 39 40 **Old Business**

41 There is no data to report at this time.

42  
43 Member Knight offered to work with Member Stepen as the Sustainability Volunteer to  
44 speak on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) at a GBN Environmental Group Meeting held on a  
45 Tuesday after school. No date is available at this time.

1   **New Business**

2   Director Mendel stated that when information on the RFP for the new Waste Management  
3   contract becomes available, it will be shared with the Sustainability Commission.

4  
5   Member Stash asked about sharing resources relating to the Northbrook CAP with  
6   Northbrook elementary, middle and high schools. The level of detail will be different for the  
7   various institutions. Director Mendel will share the PDF document on file from Ms. Murray  
8   on her presentation to the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) with  
9   Sustainability membership. Member Dold volunteered to formulate an elementary level  
10   version of the material appropriate for those students.

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12   **Remarks for the Good of the Order**

13   Director Mendel stated that the job posting for a Village Sustainability Coordinator will be  
14   released this week.

15  
16   **Next Scheduled Meeting**

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

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20   **Adjourn**

21   A motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Knight at 6:55 p.m. to  
22   adjourn the Sustainability Commission October 2023 meeting. The motion passed by voice  
23   vote.

24  
25   Respectfully submitted,  
26   /s/ Sue Anetsberger  
27   Recorder