

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK
OCTOBER 21, 2023

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

Also Present: Director of Planning Services Jonathan Mendel

Absent: Ying Wang

Guests: Shital Pandit

Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Member Stash and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the September 21, 2023 Sustainability Commission meeting minutes. The motion passed by voice vote.

Hear from the Audience/Public Comments

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

Community Planning Report

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

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

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

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

There are several small development projects within the Village.

The Zoning Code update process continues.

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

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

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

5
6 **New June Environmental Event Planning**

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

16
17 Discussion took place on whether membership was committed and had the capacity to be
18 substantive members if the event was approved for June 2024. The lack of a Village
19 Sustainability Coordinator at the present time also poses a difficulty. Staff involvement at
20 present is minimal.

21
22 Membership was in agreement to resurrect the event in a new format; redevelop the event
23 and budget it is an opportunity to connect with the community. The focus will be on the
24 environment. Membership seeks to work in hand with Go Green and the Library.
25 Membership also saw value in working with the Northbrook Garden Club if interest and
26 dates coalign. It was also suggested that Membership reach out to paleBLUEdot.

27
28 Member Lee asked if the event could be service oriented. Neighborhood clean-up could still
29 be a focus.

30
31 Director Mendel suggested that membership further flush out the ideas discussed tonight
32 for the November meeting. He stated at this time planning is only framework for a future
33 event. Membership agreed that the event does not have to replicate what has been done in
34 the past.

35
36 Membership agreed that the event should have a kid focus, a focus on the benefits of
37 bicycling; a feature on what the Village is working on related to the CAP. There is consensus
38 that a new location would benefit the new rebranding. The Village Hall-Library Campus is
39 desirable as it is host to the Community Garden and the Rain/Pollinator Garden. There is
40 ample parking. No permits would be required.

41
42 Member Dold stated that if vendors are desired for a June 2024 event, there would have to
43 be vendor commitment by the end of this calendar year.

44
45 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.

11

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.

19

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

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