



Village of Westchester

GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting

April 7th, 2022 @ 6:30pm

Community Room (Building Dept Entrance)

Village President
NICK STEKER

Village Clerk
JENNIFER HALL

Trustees
TRACY JENNINGS
CATHY KURATKO
TRACY MARKEY
ROBERT MORALES
EVELYN SLAVIC

Village Manager
PAUL NOSEK

1. Call to Order

Call to order at 6:49PM.

Commissioners: Liz Wiseman-Chase, Lee Kaufman, Nicole Molinaro, Matt Downs, Diane Scott, LeeAnn Kruszynski, Recorder: Nikki Way (Absent: Jasmine Pope) Steve Crowley (PW) and Residents: James Lewandowski and Jean Klotter

2. Pledge

3. Inspiration

- a. M. Downs – Inspiring quote from Jane Goodall.
- b. Next Month: L. Kaufman

4. Roll Call

- a. Welcome Nikki as Recorder

5. Public Participation - In order to give as many visitors as possible an opportunity to speak and in the interest of adjourning the meeting by 8:00 p.m., please limit your comments to 3 minutes in length, unless further time is granted by the Commission.

No comments

6. Review of Minutes

- a. Approval of 3-3-22 minutes

Lee motions to approve the minutes of 3-3-22.

VOTE - AYES >

Commissioner Kaufman

Commissioner Kruszyński

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner W-Chase

Commissioner Molinaro

Motion Carried Unanimously.

7. New Business

- a. Refresh GROW ordinance roles and responsibilities – Liz
 - i. Our purpose to advise and educate the community to improve the environment in the community and surrounding communities.
- b. Discussion on priorities - Diane

- i. Shall we research our priorities for a period of time, culminating in a community outreach event/educational program (ie, a presentation or Zoom on "Flooding in Westchester 101" or "Composting Tips" etc).
 - 1. **Priorities will become clear once the GRC is graded.** We need to fill in our goal for the next year until we get a clear picture. Is there one topic that we all want to work on? Can we do a period of research and education? A survey of the community?
 - a. Lee: We need easy, quick wins of small little projects.
 - b. Nicole: Community Outreach can be a place to start. We can have a subcommittee as long as there are no decisions made, or constitute majority of the quorum. There can be public participation. We can submit to Paul and Greg for posting to Westchester on Facebook.
 - ii. Can we accommodate our individual passions in this process? Waste Reduction & Recycling, Biking, Tree Canopy Restoration, Flood Reduction (FEMA CRS), Community Outreach, Ecological Practices, Community Solar, Electric Vehicles...
- c. Set & Vote on 2022 Goals - Diane/Liz
 - i. **Community Outreach & Engagement – that will encompass all priorities.**
 - 1. Nicole motions to approve, Lee seconds.

VOTE - AYES >

Commissioner Kaufman

Commissioner Kruszyński

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner W-Chase

Commissioner Molinaro

Motion Carried Unanimously.

- d. Citizens for Conservation - Native Plants for Seeds Earth Day 4/22? – Matt
 - i. Can we have an application in the paper for people to apply? Individuals can apply by land demographics and people matched. We can make it available to public/residents.
 - 1. QR Code + URL to the link for application in the Westchester Newsletter
- e. Tree Canopy Replenishment – LeeAnn
 - i. All trees through Spring 2023 have been spoken for, so Westchester will not be able to get trees. ~~We have been included in a Federal earmark to receive trees.~~ (Where I discuss trees for the Village, “we have been included in an earmark” is misleading. CRTI has been included in the earmark, not the Village. There will be opportunities for the Village to get free trees.)The trees will be 6 – 10’ tall. We can get residents to help plant.
 - ii. IDNR – has grants to hire for a tree inventory, and other opportunities for planting funding.
 - 1. Canopy Counts – tree inventory for individuals.
 - iii. Door hangers – Morten has tree hangtags – they can put placed on trees when they are planted regarding care.
 - iv. Steve - People are placing rocks around trees, or volcano mounds. **We need education around trees.** Looked into Gator bags, but they are expensive.
- f. Waste Management Contract Expectations – Nicole
 - i. Evie will reach out to LeeAnn to discuss contract that will likely be bid for January 2023.
 - ii. Dianne – **can we ask Evie for a copy of the contract?**
- g. Budget Items - Evie
 - i. #1 – Obtain scoring of MMC-GRC from the Village
 - 1. Approved.
 - ii. #2 – 1 hour per month with Scott Russell or designee
 - 1. Approved – Steve joined the meeting.
 - iii. #3 – Materials needed to set up a booth for GROW for community outreach at local events.

- 1. Approved. \$1,500 for some materials.
- iv. #4 – T-shirts for commission members to wear at community outreach events.
 - 1. Approved
- v. Question about finding funding: ~~All funds would go into a general fund and earmarked for the general purpose.~~ (Edit for g.v. If the Village were to receive donations or grant monies for a specific purpose, the funds would be deposited to the Village's general fund and then earmarked for the specified purpose for which the funding is to be used.) Public comment: Lyons township provided funding for a project/event. If there is a connection, we can possible ask. Nicole mentioned she has a contact. “Lorenzo B. Webber, Director of Youth Services” (<https://provisotownship.com/services/youth-services/>)
- h. Quarterly Report - Due April
 - i. Will be short, Nicole and Liz will work on drafting it.
- i. Call for Agenda Items 7 - 10 days prior to next meeting – All

8. Old Business

- a. Evie - Open Meeting Act - OMA Training and Municipal Emails, all commissioners
 - i. Goal: to do training by next Grow Meeting.
- b. Evie (LeeAnn/Matt) - Facebook Page / Email Blasts
- c. Evie - Special Meetings
 - i. GROW can call a special meeting, info will be covered in OMA training. Must give 2 days notice.
- d. Evie - Sub-committees, no decisions can be made

9. Information Only (*GROW Upcoming Meetings: 5/12, 6/2, 7/7, 8/4, 9/1, 10/6, 11/3 & 12/1*)

a. Upcoming Events

- i. ? Arboretum Centennial – LeeAnn
 - 1. Events: tree plantings are happening everywhere.
 - ii. 4/23 Shredding Event MWRD
 - iii. 4/29 Public Works Arbor Day/Tree City USA School Tree Planting Event 1ish?
 - 1. School are interested in doing it, they need to pick a school and time. It is about 45 minutes. GROW would be happy to be a part of it.
 - 2. LeeAnn may be able to provide materials. Nicole has some pamphlets.
 - 3. Public works would like to have a Tree Board for Tree City USA.
 - iv. 4/29-5/3 iNaturalist Event - WRP, Park District & Library
 - v. 5/14 Grassroots Garden Group Plant Sale
 - 1. Can donate extra plantings to this effort.
 - vi. 6/16 @ 12:30p - Library West Prairie Ribbon Cutting Event
 - vii. 7/23 GGG Garden Walk 9-1
 - viii. Nicole: May 1- 7 is Compost Week. We can add it to the Go Green Westchester.
 - 1. May 1 – 7, 2022 INTERNATIONAL COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK (ICAW)
 - 2. <https://www.compostfoundation.org/ICAW/ICAW-Home>
 - 3. <https://porch.com/advice/creating-composting-system>
 - 4. More resources: <https://www.compostfoundation.org/Educa.../Compost-Resources>
- b. Lee Volunteered to do next Month’s Meeting Inspiration
- c. **Monthly Newsletter (DUE 15th of prior month)**
- i. April - (Diane) iNaturalist Event & 4/23 MWRD Shredding Event
 - ii. **May - (LeeAnn) Tree Care CRTI - Due 4/15**
 - iii. June - (?) Native Gardening & Prairie Plants (Library Ribbon Cutting)
 - 1. Dianne volunteers to work on this article.
 - iv. July -

- v. August -
- vi. September -
- vii. October -
- viii. November -
- ix. December -
- d. Park District Meetings @ 7pm**
 - i. 4/11, 5/9, 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14 & 12/12
 - ii. Had a meeting at the Park District for the iNaturalist event. The library will be involved. It will be a contest. They may offer a free pool membership. They are very supportive of the idea.
 - iii. They are replacing all of the signs at the park district so they are unified, with new plantings. Camberley Park is an area of interest for planting more trees.
- e. Village Board Meetings @ 6pm**
 - i. 4/12, 4/26, 5/10, 5/24, 6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 8/23, 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/8, 11/22, 12/13 & 12/27
- f. Economic Development Committee @ 7:30am**
 - i. 5/9, 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14 & 12/12
- g. Library @ evenings?**
 - i. To attend virtually contact Library Director Fidencio Marbella at fidenciom@westchesterpl.org / 708- 562-3573
 - ii. Trustee Vacancy Deadline 5/20/22 @ 3pm <https://westchesterpl.org/8413-2/>
- h. Grassroots Garden Group Meetings @ 6:30pm**
 - i. 4/25, 5/23, 6/27, 7/25, 8/29, 9/26 & 10/24
- i. Commissioner Leads**
 - i. Public Works
 - ii. MWRD -
 - iii. Plan & Zoning -
 - iv. Retail/Industrial -
 - v. Park District -
 - vi. Library -
 - vii. Westchester Schools Dist 92.5 -
 - viii. High School Dist 209 -
 - ix. Wolf Road Prairie -
 - x. IL Extension -
 - xi. FPDCC -
 - xii. MMC GRC -
 - xiii. FEMA CRS -
 - xiv. Waste Management -
 - xv. EDC -
- j. Dianne** : How do you see this working ? Nicole : GROW will work with this person to be a liaison to engage to meet needs for both sides.
- k. QR Codes - Content to be approved**
 - i. Nicole: Content to be approved? LeeAnne and Matt will develop the content. Do we need to approve it as a commission? Discussion: No, we can trust it will align with goals. A member can send out a draft for review with a deadline to get into the paper.
- l. Nicole: Motion to discuss Val Kehoe. LeeAnn motions to approve.**
 - i. Just wanted to mention there was a connection and point person for our areas for education and “Conservation at Home” and getting involved in school and communities.

10. Adjournment

Lee motions to Adjourn. Matt Seconds. All approve.

Adjourn at 8:03 PM.

The Village of Westchester will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. Any one who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Village of Westchester, should contact the office of the Fire Chief, 10300 W. Roosevelt Road, Westchester, IL, (708) 345-0441, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.