



Village of Winnetka

Environmental and Forestry Commission Meeting

April 10, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Winnetka Village Hall Council Chambers - 510
Green Bay Road

AGENDA

1. **Introduction & Chair's Remarks**
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Approval of the March 13, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
4. **Old Business Updates**
5. **New Business**
 - a. 2024 Forestry Update
6. **Communications**
 - a. May 2024 Communications Items
 - b. June 2024 Communications Items
7. **Committee/Staff Reports**
8. **Open Forum**
 - a. Commission-Led Initiative Updates
9. **Adjournment**

NOTICE

All agenda materials are available at villageofwinnetka.org (**Government > Council Information > Agenda Packets & Minutes**); the Reference Desk at the Winnetka Library; or in the Manager's Office at Village Hall (2nd floor). The Village of Winnetka, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that all persons with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, contact the Village ADA Coordinator, at 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, 847-716-3543; T.D.D. 847-501-6041.

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2024

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Environmental and Forestry Commission of the Village of Winnetka, which was held in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois, Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chair Hanley called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Voting Members present: Commissioners Elizabeth Kunkle, Peter Eck, Brendan Andrew, and Gregory Frezados. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: Robert Dearborn. Student Representative Present: None. Interim Staff Liaison present: Erik Jensen, Assistant Public Works Director.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chair Hanley welcomed the group and explained that he would like to return to Commissioner-led initiatives in the upcoming meetings.

2) Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of the February Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Kunkle, seconded by Commissioner Eck to approve the minutes as presented.

AYES: KUNKLE, ECK, ANDREW, FREZADOS.

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: VARCA, RING.

4) New Business/Old Business Updates:

a) Sustainability Coordinator Update

Chair Hanley provided detail regarding the position and stated that it should be posted in the near future.

b) Sourcing Communications Items

Chair Hanley discussed Commissioner-generated communications items. He asked for Commissioners to come up with two if possible.

Commissioner Frezados asked if the topics could be delegated to avoid duplication.

Commissioner Kunkle explained the history of some of the communications items and their seasonality. She encouraged Commissioner to write on their own topics of interest.

5) Communications:

a) 2024 Green Award Submission

Interim Liaison Jensen explained the application received.

A brief conversation occurred on the history of the award, and ultimately, the Commissioners agreed to award the 2024 Award to the project at 891 Prospect.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kunkle, seconded by Commissioner Frezados to award the 2024 Green Award to the project completed at 891 Prospect. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Liaison Jensen explained that the winners would be recognized at a future Village Council meeting.

b) April Communications Items

A motion was made by Commissioner Kunkle, seconded by Commissioner Eck to approve the April Communications as presented. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

c) May Communications Items

A brief conversation was held regarding promoting composting in the Village.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kunkle, seconded by Commissioner Eck to approve the May Communications as presented. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

6) Commission/Staff Reports:

None.

7) Open Forum:

a) Green Bay Trail Proposal

Chair Hanley discussed the conversation held at the January regular meeting regarding the Green Bay Trail and buckthorn mitigation. He noted that the Friends of the Green Bay Trail had submitted a memorandum on a demonstration project along the trail, which was included in this meeting's packet. He also explained that Village staff had included a memorandum on the subject. He asked Liaison Jensen to briefly overview both items.

Liaison Jensen explained the components of the Friends of the Green Bay Trail's memorandum and then went through the various sections of the staff memorandum. He explained some of

the intricacies associated with the project, including the possible award of a federal grant for a separate project along the trail.

A brief conversation followed on the two memorandums. Liaison Dearborn noted his desire to see the demonstration project continue to move forward. A conversation followed on what would be required in order to see the project move forward.

The Commission reached an informal consensus that further discussions would be needed with the Village Forester and one potential opportunity would follow at the April regular meeting.

b) Commissioner-Led Initiatives

Commissioner Kunkle noted that she was continuing to advocate for composting education and discussed her interest in reviewing options for native plantings in public parkways.

Commissioner Eck stated he was continuing his work on carbon footprint analysis and that he planned to bring something back later in the year on carbon benchmarking.

Commissioner Frezados reviewed some of his work on public financing for solar projects and the various intricacies involved.

Chair Hanley encouraged Commissioner Frezados to scale his work as needed.

Commissioner Andrew reviewed his work with alternative energy supplies. Liaison Dearborn provided some context on the current situation at the Power Plant. Commissioner Andrew suggested he may have more items to bring back in May.

8) Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chair Hanley asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Frezados. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote; the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

May 2024 EFC Communications Content

1. Green Awards Recipients

Summer Winnetka Report & E-Winnetka Newsletter

(TBD after April 16th Village Council Meeting)

2. Stormwater Best Management Practices Guide for Residents

E-Winnetka Newsletter

In 2016, the Environmental and Forestry Commission developed a guide for homeowners of stormwater best management practices. This guide is a resource for homeowners to educate and give practical examples of ways to make properties stormwater-friendly. The recommended stormwater best management practices in this guide are intended to help with stormwater control and may not solve all stormwater problems. This guide can be found on the Village website: <http://www.villageofwinnetka.org/government/boards-and-commissions/environmental-and-forestry-commission/>. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568.

3. Environmental and Forestry Commission Recycling Tip - Break Down All Boxes

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Each ton of cardboard recycled saves 46 gallons of oil and 390 kWh of energy. The Village's recycling provider encourages the recycling of cardboard and other paper-based materials. Prepare cardboard for recycling by removing all materials in the box such as plastic wrap, polystyrene, and other packaging materials. Breaking down boxes saves storage space and reduces pick up costs. Keep cardboard dry and free from excessive food waste. Cardboard can get wet and still be recycled, but is more difficult to carry due to the added weight of the water.

4. Environmental and Forestry Commission Recycling Tip – Leave Lids on Plastic Containers

E-Winnetka Newsletter

To remove or not to remove lids when recycling? The Village's recycling provider, Lakeshore Recycling Systems, asks residents to leave caps on plastic bottles and glass jars when recycling. This keeps residual liquids contained and the small lids from clogging the sorting machines. Most plastic bottles are categorized as plastic #2, while their caps are plastic #5.

5. Pesticide Alternatives

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Pesticides are chemicals used to kill unwanted insects and pests (often mosquitoes). Often, they have negative effects on lots of other species, including bees, cats, fish, birds and even humans, especially children. There are many reasons not to use pesticides and plenty of alternatives. To keep your yard mosquito free without harming your bees, butterflies, pets and children, you could use safe repellents (be aware that many companies that advertise as organic and safe are not), mosquito repellent plants (such as lavender, marigolds, basil, sage, bee balm, lemongrass and rosemary), screened in porches (which allow outdoor bug free space) and eliminate standing water for mosquitoes to lay eggs. Before you use pesticides, consider what you are using in your yard and how it affects your animals and your neighbors.

June 2023 EFC Communications Content

1. Coal Tar Sealant Reminder

E-Winnetka Newsletter

In August of 2014, the Village of Winnetka implemented a ban on the use of coal tar-based sealing agents on all public and private driveways, parking lots and other roadway surfaces with Village limits. Coal tar is a waste material generated during coal processing that contains high levels of chemical compounds shown to be harmful to aquatic life and pose a potential risk to humans. This initiative was studied by the Village's Environmental and Forestry Commission as an effort to benefit water quality. As required by this ban, all contractors and multi-family property owners must obtain a Pavement Sealant Applicators License through the Public Works Department. Property owners of single family lots applying sealant themselves do not need a Pavement Sealant Applicators License.

As an alternative to coal tar-based sealants, the Village recommends using asphalt-based sealants (sold in most home improvement stores), replacing asphalt with concrete driveways, or leaving driveways unsealed.

In April, notifications were sent to previously licensed contractors reminding them to renew their applicator license in 2023 to confirm their sealant meets Village requirements. For more information, please call Erik Jensen in the Public Works Department at (847) 716-3534.

2. Removal of Buckthorn and other Invasive Species

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Unlike native trees and shrubs, invasive species like buckthorn spread quickly across our woodlands, prairies, wetlands, and parks, competing with native species for resources needed for a stable, healthy environment. Examples of invasive species in northern Illinois include buckthorn, Lesser Celandine, Callery pear, Amur maple, burning bush, Norway maple, tree of heaven, and barberry. These invasive plants, trees, and shrubs thrive in our area mainly because of their ability to reseed.

A good way to remove and lessen the risk of spreading buckthorn is to remove the plants before they flower (May-June) and produce seeds (August-September). If you suspect that removed buckthorn or other invasive plants contain seeds, bag them in landscape waste bags and place them out on the same day as your trash pickup rather than composting them, as landscape waste is banned from landfills in Illinois.



3. Recycling Tip – Make sure all containers are free of liquid and food residue

E-Winnetka Newsletter

When recycling used food containers, it is important to remove leftover food waste and liquids. Containers or cardboard that have excessive food waste on them may contaminate other recyclable materials they are mixed in with. When recyclables are heavily contaminated with food waste, they become less desirable for resale. Empty all liquids and remove as much food waste as you can before putting your hard plastic, aluminum, and glass containers in your recycling bin. Many paper-based food containers may be compostable through one of Winnetka's container swap compost haulers (Collective Resource Compost and WasteNot Compost).

4. Recycling Tip – Plastic bags and film

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Plastic bags, wraps, and film can be recycled into new materials – they simply require a different collection system and processing equipment than many curbside recycling programs provide. DO NOT put plastic bags/wraps/film in your bin as the Village's recycling provider, Lakeshore Recycling Services, does not accept these items.

Plastic bags may be brought to grocery stores for recycling. Plastic bags are made out of "film", or thin flexible sheets of plastic. The majority of plastic films are made from polyethylene (PE) resin and are readily recyclable if the material is clean and dry. Plastic wrap and film packaging are generally #2 and #4 plastic, both of which are recyclable. Most plastic bags are recycled into composite lumber, but can actually become a wide variety of products.

Clean and dry plastic bags, film, wrap can be recycled at many grocery and retail stores. Be sure to completely empty the bags, film, and wrap of all food and liquid waste before taking them to your nearest participating store. A list of plastics that may be recycled at most stores is below:

- Grocery bags
- Bread bags
- Case overwrap (e.g. water, soda and juice bottles)
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Ice bags
- Wood pellet bags
- Ziplock/reclosable bags
- Produce bags
- Bubble wrap
- Salt bags
- Cereal bags