



Village of Winnetka

Environmental and Forestry Commission Meeting

May 8, 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 April 10, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
4. **Old Business Updates**
 - a. Mayors' Monarch Pledge
5. **New Business**
6. **Communications**
 - a. June 2024 Communications
 - b. July 2024 Communications
7. **Committee/Staff Reports**
8. **Open Forum**
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
APRIL 10, 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, April 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chair Hanley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Voting Members present: Chair Patrick Hanley and Commissioners Elizabeth Kunkle, Gregory Frezados and Tim Ring. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: None. Student Representative Present: None. Interim Staff Liaison present: Erik Jensen, Assistant Public Works Director.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chair Hanley welcomed the group. He asked if there would be any objections to placing public comment after the presentation this evening to allow for questions from the public.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ring, seconded by Commissioner Frezados to amend the meeting's agenda to place the public comment section after Commissioner/Staff Reports. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

2) Review and Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of the March Regular Meeting Minutes

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

AYES: KUNKLE, FREZADOS, RING, HANLEY.

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: ECK, ANDREW, VARCA.

3) New Business/Old Business Updates:

a) 2024 Forestry Update

Chair Hanley noted that there was an upcoming meeting scheduled between the Friends of the Green Bay Trail and Village staff to discuss the Friends' demonstration project proposal.

Chair Hanley briefly introduced Village Forester Andrew Lueck.

Mr. Lueck gave a brief overview of the Forestry Division, including staffing and contractual arrangements. He discussed some of the division's activities, including inventorying of trees.

Mr. Lueck showed an image from the Village's geographic information system with a section of the inventory displayed.

From the audience, a member of the public asked if the trees on the Green Bay Trail are included. Mr. Lueck replied that they were not.

Mr. Lueck discussed tree pruning cycles, stating that trees are all trimmed on a four-to-five-year cycle.

A brief conversation followed on methods of identifying and updating the inventory in conjunction with pruning activities.

Mr. Lueck overviewed the process for permitting private tree removals, including the criteria necessary. He discussed the alternative options available to private property owners in lieu of planting. A brief conversation followed on specific questions related to removals.

Mr. Lueck discussed tree planting with an emphasis on species diversity. Some variables affecting the annual number of trees planted were discussed.

Mr. Lueck ended by discussing plans for the upcoming Arbor Day observance.

Chair Hanley thanked Mr. Lueck for his presentation and asked if he would stay for the public comment section. Mr. Lueck agreed.

4) Communications:

a) May Communications Items

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

b) June Communications Items

Commissioner Kunkle noted that Cook County had also passed a coal tar ban and suggested that language on that be incorporated into the June communications item.

5) Commission/Staff Reports:

Liaison Jensen noted that the recognition for the 2024 Green Award winners would be held at the next Council meeting on Tuesday, April 16.

6) Public Comment:

Mr. Bryan Lammers with Friends of the Green Bay Trail discussed the buckthorn mitigation recommendations made to the Glencoe Village Council and discussed some of the activities completed in Glencoe on the matter.

A conversation followed on potential buckthorn mitigation efforts in the Village. Commissioner Ring asked Mr. Lueck about the impact of buckthorn. Mr. Lueck explained that it needs active management to avoid spreading.

Commissioner Ring asked about other noxious species, and Mr. Lueck explained the Village's noxious species list.

Chair Hanley emphasized the need for continuing education on the matter to assist private property owners that wish to actively mitigate buckthorn on their property.

7) Open Forum:

Due to the time, Chair Hanley asked for updates to be pushed to the next meeting in May. There were no objections.

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 Ring. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote; the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

June 2024 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 March 2024, Cook County also banned the use of coal tar based sealing agents in unincorporated areas of the county.

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. Try to keep lids and bottles together to the extent possible. Many paper-based food containers may be compostable through one of Winnetka's container swap compost haulers (Collective Resource Compost and WasteNot Compost) or at one of the Village's dropsites.

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

July 2024 EFC Communications Content

1. Paper Shredding Event

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Winnetka's Document Destruction Event will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2024 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Public Works Yards at 1390 Willow Road. The goal of the program is to assist residents with recycling outdated or sensitive documents. As a continuing program, the Solid Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) is providing a one-day document destruction event for residentially-generated paper, such as medical forms, bank statement, personal files, retired tax forms, etc. Paper clips and staples do not need to be removed, but please remove binders.

There is no cost to participate, but residents must live in one of SWANCC's member communities and ID's will be checked for proof of residency. Residents will be limited to six file-size boxes or paper shopping bags per vehicle. Please do not bring documents in plastic bags. As residents drive up in their vehicles, workers will unload the paper documents into large carts. When full, the carts of paper are emptied into the truck's cross-shredding machine.

2. Hosting a Zero-Waste Event

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Hosting a Zero Waste event is not hard but takes a little advanced planning.

1. Start by determining all the food and serving products you will need, such as food, drinks, cups, plates, bowls, utensils, tablecloths, and centerpieces. Make sure all are recyclable, compostable, or reusable. It is best if all plastic looking products are compostable (especially beer & wine cups) to avoid confusion.
2. Tell your caterer that you do not want any single-serve packets—they are usually not recyclable or compostable (i.e. sugar, ketchup, butter in foil)—or non-compostable materials (i.e. plastic coffee stirrers, tea in foil bags, small creamers, ice cream wrappers, sandwiches wrapped in plastic or in plastic lunch bags, etc.) that can contaminate the compost & recycling.
3. Request "Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) certified" compostable materials from your caterer or order some from [OfficeMax.com](https://www.officemax.com) or [EcoProducts.com](https://www.ecoproducts.com).

3. Recycling Tip – Plastic Silverware

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Americans dispose of enough paper and plastic cups, forks and spoons every year to circle the earth 300 times. The Villages' recycling provider, Lakeshore Recycling, accepts plastics #1-5 and #7. If plastic utensils are marked with #1-5 or #7 they can be recycled. If they are marked with #6 they cannot be recycled. Some utensils may even be identified as compostable.

4. Recycling Tip – Styrofoam

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Winnetka has year-round Styrofoam recycling for Winnetka residents. This program is offered through a partnership between the Winnetka Public Works, the Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission, and Dart Container Corporation. To participate, simply drop off #6 Styrofoam (both block-style and food service items) at the Winnetka Public Works Yards, 1390 Willow Road, on Monday from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Styrofoam can be dropped off at the Public Works gates.

5. Stormwater-Friendly Landscaping

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Stormwater-friendly landscaping can be an environmentally-sound means to moderate the effects of stormwater during rainfall events. Some examples of stormwater-friendly landscaping practices include use of rain barrels and downspouts, permeable pavement, rain gardens, natural landscaping, bioswales and bioretention basins. It is also important to consider stormwater-friendly lawn care practices during the summer months. To learn more about stormwater-friendly landscaping and lawn care practices, visit the following link to the Environmental and Forestry Commission's Stormwater Best Management Practices Guide for Residents.

<https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/263/Tips-to-Go-Green>