

**WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**JULY 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, July 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:**

Commissioner Kunkle called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Commissioner Kunkle noticed those in attendance that Chair Hanley had requested to attend this meeting remotely due to childcare obligation. Commissioner Kunkle stated that this is permissible provided that 2/3 of the Commission does not object. Commissioner Kunkle asked for any objections. Seeing none, Chair Hanley was approved to participate in the meeting remotely.

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: Scarlett Harper. Interim Staff Liaison present: Erik Jensen, Assistant Public Works Director.

**1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:**

Chair Hanley welcomed the group.

**2) Public Comment:**

From the audience, Mr. Bryan Lammers spoke on the status of the Green Bay Trail project. He noted that a section of trail was identified near Ash Street with the Village Forester. He stated a landscaping plan was forthcoming.

Chair Hanley asked how screening would be approached.

Mr. Lammers explained that initial conversations were held with the abutting property owners.

Commissioner Ring asked what the timeframe would be for the project.

Mr. Lammers stated that the landscape plan would include a timeline.

**3) Review and Approval of Minutes**

**a) Approval of the May Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

AYES: KUNKLE, FREZADOS, RING, HANLEY.

NAYS: NONE  
ABSENT: ANDREW, ECK, VARCA.

**4) Old Business Updates:**

a) Village Council May 14, 2024 Study Session on IMEA Contract Renewal Update

Chair Hanley briefly overviewed the Village Council's study session and noted a forum would be held likely sometime in the fall.

b) Right-of-Way Landscaping

Commissioner Kunkle introduced Ellie Dunne, a New Trier High School student with an interest in native landscaping. Commissioner Kunkle explained the context of the permitting process for right-of-way native landscaping, and Ms. Dunne stated she had reviewed the materials and found them to be comprehensive.

Commissioner Eck arrived at 7:21 p.m.

Commissioner Kunkle noted that September communications could focus on native landscaping with some items written or input provided by Ms. Dunne.

**5) New Business**

a) Presentation on Residential Solar Installations

Commissioner Frezados introduced Mr. Paul Doughty, from Certasun, and stated that Mr. Doughty would be presenting on residential solar installations for the Commission.

Mr. Doughty provided a general overview of residential solar installations, including how they work, the suitability of various structures for solar installations and the incentives that are offered for their installation.

Mr. Doughty overviewed common questions and answers about the installations and detailed some work performed in the North Shore Area, including within the Village.

A brief conversation followed communicating this information with the public.

Chair Hanley thanked Mr. Doughty for the overview.

**6) Communications:**

a) August Communications Items

Commissioner Kunkle suggested edits to the August communication items related to composting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eck, seconded by Commissioner Kunkle to approve the August Communications as amended. On a voice vote, all aye.

b) September Communications Items

Liaison Jensen explained that the previous September Communications from prior to the COVID-19 pandemic were distributed tonight for conversation.

Commissioner Kunkle stated she would work with Ms. Dunne to create some native landscaping items for September.

7) Commission/Staff Reports:

Liaison Jensen noted that the August meeting would be held at the Police Department as the Village Hall elevator would be out of service for the modernization project.

8) Open Forum:

Chair Hanley asked the Commission for updates on their individual areas of focus.

A conversation followed on the evening's presentation and how to make the information useable to the general public. Ultimately, the Commission encouraged Commissioner Frezados to look into the Solsmart program and report back on potential ways the Village could expand its participation.

9) Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chair Hanley asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Eck. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote; the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.