



Village of Winnetka

Environmental and Forestry Commission Meeting

July 13, 2022 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 May 11, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 4. New Business / Old Business Updates**
 - a. 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Sustainability Plan
 - b. Sustainable Materials Management
 - c. Public Trust Doctrine
- 5. Communications**
 - a. Approval of July Communication Items
 - b. Approval of August Communication Items
 - c. Discussion of September Communication Items
- 6. Committee/Staff Reports**
- 7. Open Forum**
- 8. Adjournment**

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2022

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, May 11, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.; Voting Members present: Commissioners David Varca, Roseann Park-Jones, Ted Wynnynchenko, Liz Kunkle, and Patrick Hanley. Voting Members absent: Chairperson Chuck Dowding. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative absent: Andrew Cripe. Student Representatives absent: Marcus Buccellato and Scarlett Harper. Staff Liaison present: Diana Puga, Public Works Analyst. Public present: none.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Acting Chairperson Hanley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed all Commission members. Staff Representative Puga took roll call for attendance.

2) Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes:

a) Approval of the March Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Kunkle made a motion to approve the March 9, 2022, minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones.

AYES:	VARCA, PARK-JONES, KUNKLE, HANLEY
ABSENT:	DOWDING, WYNNYCHENKO
NAYS:	NONE

4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:

a) 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Sustainability Plan

i) Pillars and Goals: Planning Commission Update

Commissioner Kunkle provided an overview of the Plan Commission meetings from January to where they currently are in reviewing the pillars. The Plan Commission has been holding two meetings a month, one meeting being dedicated strictly to Comprehensive Plan discussions.

ii) Recasting existing and additional 2040 Proposed Village Goals into format below

Goal	Objective	Action-Item	Partners	Funding	Time-Frame
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The Commissioners reviewed the existing 2040 Proposed goals and provided recommendations for each on formatting, description, grammar, and language.

b) Sustainable Materials Management

i) National Recycling Strategy

The National Recycling Strategy draft was released in 2020 but at the time only included one page on composting/food scraps. In November 2021, the final plan was released and had fundamentally changed and included two high value items: plastics and food waste.

ii) U.S. Food Loss and Waste Action Plan

Two documents were released, one was specifically in relation to Farmville, the second document, the U.S. Food Loss and Waste Action Plan was co-authored by the same authors of the Farmville document and had general applicability and focuses on five priorities for administration/Congress to consider in relation to food loss and waste. The priorities are infrastructure, expanding incentives to institutionalize food donation, assert US Government's leadership on FLW globally and domestically, educate and activate consumers via behavior change campaigns, and require a national date labeling standard. The initiatives and policy recommendations with each priority are adaptable for municipalities.

c) Public Trust Doctrine

The Public Trust Doctrine was established during Roman times and is essentially a creed that states flowing water and shorelines belonged to all men, not allowing for one individual or body to take ownership. Originally the doctrine was in relation to commerce and navigation but has now expanded to recreation. The idea is that the lakeshores/fronets are there forever and individuals cannot bar others from walking along the shore. There is a concern regarding efforts being taken to limit the accessibility/usability of the lakeshores of non-Lakefront/Lakeshore homeowners.

5) Communications:

a) Approval of April Communication Items

The Commissioners reviewed the May Communication Items which included the Green Award Recipients, Stormwater Best Management Practices Guide for Residents, Environmental and Forestry Commission Recycling Tips for Breaking Down Boxes and Leaving Lids on Plastic Containers, and Pesticide Alternatives. Commissioner Kunkle

motioned to approve the April Communication Items; Commissioner Wynnychenko seconded the motion.

AYES: VARCA, PARK-JONES, WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE
ABSENT: DOWDING
NAYS: NONE

b) Approval of May Communication Items

The Commissioners reviewed the May Communication Items which included a Coal Tar Sealant reminder, Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Ban, Removal of Buckthorn and other Invasive Species, Recycling Tips: Containers free of liquid and food residue, plastic bags and film. The Commissioners agreed to approve the May Communication Items in the interest of staying on track. Commissioner Varca motioned to approve the May Communication Items; Commissioner Kunkle seconded the motion.

AYES: VARCA, PARK-JONES, WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE
ABSENT: DOWDING
NAYS: NONE

6) Commission/Staff Reports:

No reports.

7) Open Forum:

No reports.

8) Adjournment:

There being no further business, Acting Chairperson Hanley asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones. The motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE

The Public Trust Doctrine, first applied to Lake Michigan by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Illinois Central Railroad Company v. Illinois*. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in its white paper *State of Illinois Coastal Management Program*, gives its interpretation of case law from the public trust doctrine as applied to ownership of the beach:

Beach accretion of sand or gravel by natural or artificial means for which the riparian owner is not responsible, that accreted above-water beach area belongs to the riparian owner. Case law does not grant private ownership of any beach area resulting from the entrapment or retention of sand caused by construction of any type of shore structure. Because of a long history of constructing numerous private groins along the North Shore (Keef 2002; and Shabica et. al. 2004), there are many such areas of accreted beach. However, any beach area that is artificially accreted beach is legally public.

July 2021 EFC Communications Content

1. Paper Shredding Event

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Winnetka's Document Destruction Event will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2022 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>

August 2022 EFC Communications Content

1. Recycling Tip – Paper Napkins, Towels, and Tissue Recycling

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Used paper-based goods such as paper napkins, towels and tissues should not be placed into your recycling bin. These types of items have potentially already been recycled numerous times and are at the end of their life cycle. Also, these types of paper are normally contaminated with food waste and are not recyclable. Items containing food waste can contaminate other recyclable items and should be composted or landfilled instead.

2. Pumpkin Composting Event

Winnetka Report

In a continuing effort to expand environmental initiatives, the Village of Winnetka is hosting a one-day pumpkin collection. Residents are encouraged to bring in pumpkins for the Village to properly dispose of, limiting the amount brought to landfills. The Public Work Department will provide a designated drop off location at the Municipal Yards Facility at 1390 Willow Road from ***DATE/TIME TBD***. Please remove any solid waste (candles, bags, etc.). Collection of garbage, food scraps or other landscape waste will not be accepted. Please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568 with any questions.

3. Curbside Leaf Collection

Winnetka Report

The Village's annual curbside leaf collection program will run from October to November, ***DATES/TIME TBD***. Under this program, residents may rake their leaves to the parkway just inside the edge of the curb for collection by the Village. Leaves collected are then hauled to Antioch, IL for composting which the Village then receives back in early spring for residents to use as compost material. For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568.

September 2022 EFC Communications Content

1. Environmental and Forestry Commission Recycling Tip During COVID-19

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Recycled materials serve as feedstocks necessary to produce essential supplies including those especially needed during this time such as paper towels, sanitizing wipes, toilet paper, and packaging for a wide range of products including boxes for shipping. Many businesses that would normally generate large amounts of recyclables have limited operations now. Therefore, household recycling is vital to the continued supply of raw materials for U.S. manufacturing sectors.

Now is a great time to focus on waste prevention where possible, and when recycling, keep the materials as clean and dry as possible. Follow the guidelines of your local recycling hauler and only put items in your recycling bin that they accept. If your community is not processing recycling due to the materials recovery facility being closed or another reason, consider dropping materials off at a recycling center, while following Center for Disease Control, state and local public health guidelines. Thank your recycling collectors, haulers, and sorters—they are providing a vital service during this time!

Reducing food waste has been ranked as the #3 solution (on a list of the Top 100) to reduce greenhouse emissions and actually reverse climate change. Composting food waste is #60 on that list. So, working to reduce food waste to begin with, divert all food waste from landfill, and composting what is left, collectively has a significant impact on one's personal carbon footprint.

To avoid wasting food at home, follow these tips:

- Take what you will eat and eat what you take at meal and snack times.
- Plan a menu and make a list so you buy what you need and do not purchase more food than you can eat before it spoils.
- Check what food you already have before you go grocery shopping.
- Get creative and make meals with what you already have.
- Label leftovers with the date when you store them in the fridge so you can keep track of how old they are.

2. Environmental and Forestry Commission Recycling Tip: Tips and Reminders During and After COVID-19

E-Winnetka Newsletter

- Keep plastic bags, masks, wipes, and latex gloves out of the recycling bin.
- If someone in your home has COVID-19, treat your recyclables as trash.
- Do not put your recyclables in plastic bags.
- Clean and shake dry recyclables to ensure products get recycled.
- Break down cardboard boxes and put them in the recycling bin whenever possible.
- Put recycling and trash in the appropriate bins, not next to them. Leaving materials next to bins increases risks to sanitation workers and can attract pests.
- If you are fall cleaning, consider setting aside things (batteries, paints, weed killer, plastic bags, clothing, other donations, etc.) to donate, recycle, or dispose of later when it's safe to bring them to a drop off location or collection event. Follow local guidelines.
- Return grass clippings back onto your lawn instead of bagging them.