

**Village of Gurnee
Environmental Sustainability Committee
Agenda**

DATE: November 7, 2023

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

**PLACE: Conference Room A at the Gurnee Village Hall located at 325
N. O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee IL**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a) Karen called the meeting to order at approximately 3:32 p.m.
- b) Roll Call: Chair Karen Thorstenson, Rebecca Adler, Dan Helgren and Meg Beckley
- c) Other Officials in Attendance: Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator
- d) Public in Attendance: Zoe Zwiefelhofer

2. Approval of October 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Meg made motion to approve it, Dan made a motion to second it.

3. New Business

A. Report Summary on Water Quality

Karen stated that it was long and informative and in summary we do have the highest quality drinking water. She stated that the part that was disappointing was that the forever chemicals have to get out of our use to get them out of the system. The group discussed how some companies dump or attempt to dump chemicals in Lake Michigan as described by Bill Soucie. Austin stated that if you go online you can find a list of products that contain PFAS and PFOAS.

Karen stated that there are five levels of filtration before it is distributed to the public supply. She stated that they are starting to modify their carbon load test and seeing if it's successful. Karen said the Executive Director Soucie did state that our water is better than bottled drinking water.

B. Recycling Event Pan x2 Per Year

Austin stated that the schedule of two of each event per the year works for him. Karen stated that the pumpkin composting event went well and was well received. Karen reviewed the recycling events as 2 Styrofoam, 2, shredding, 2 electronics recycling, a compost event, mulch event and a compost pumpkin event. Austin said we could do the composting events as long as we receive the compost.

Meg suggested that the Village hold an electronics recycling event into the next Saturday and Karen stated that it would cost the Village in overtime to have it staffed.

C. Alternate Styrofoam Recycler v. Dart

Austin said that he could not secure an alternative Styrofoam recycler as the company that reached out to him wanted the Village to purchase a an expensive machine to compress it and it was just too large of an investment for Village. Austin stated that the fleet manager admitted to him that he forgot to schedule the driver.

4. Discussion Items

A. Progress with WTHS to get recycle plastic bottle water bins in lunch area

Zoe stated that the cafeteria at Warren does have a place to recycle bottles and cans. Karen stated that's good news and asked if it's at both facilities have those options. Zoe stated that she didn't know.

Zoe state that the Warren environmental group has a meeting tomorrow and they are going to come up with their goal for the year and that they are thinking about how to get fresh food into the lunchroom and she was also thinking about composting. Karen mentioned that Merleanne from SWALCO will be a good resource once the group establishes their goals.

B. Progress on Company that Collects Plastic Bags

Rebecca spoke about the company NexTrex and that they are looking to expand and have partners like us. Rebecca mentioned they are looking to have a drop off point with a municipality, however it has to be baled but they are willing to finance the baler. She stated that we would have to tell them okay but we would have to coordinate the effort. She stated that NexTrex is willing to meet with the committee if we wanted to get started.

Dan asked how much volume do we have to supply? Rebecca stated that she did know but could reach out to them.

Meg asked if the cost of the baler would be based on how much we provide?

Meg asked if the other big box stores do anything with their plastics?

Rebecca stated that Jewel and Mariano's are part of the NeTrex program, but she did not know what the other stores do. Rebecca stated that baler, plastics and everything would have to be clean and dry and stored inside.

Austin stated the he doesn't think the Village would be involved in something like this where we would have to store a baler indoors. Austin said that he can ask if any other SWALCO communities participate in this. Rebecca said she did and no one was involved. Austin said that he will check with Mariano's and Jewel to see if they take plastics films and are part of NexTrex. Karen stated that she could check on the use of plastics/a possible baler at Six Flags, Great Wolf and the Township.

C. Report on Textiles Recycling Revenue

Austin stated that we get the revenue for the textiles once a year and we received a check for \$2,307.33. Karen discussed the textile bins and how SWALCO wants to put more in the community.

D. Home and Business Solar Power Options/Vendors

Austin mentioned that Steve wanted to talk about solar panels and if the Village can endorse a specific company. Austin said it's hard for the Village to endorse any company as we really can't do it, but will check with Community Development to see who has done work within the Village.

E. Cancel December or January Meeting

Austin stated he has to put together the schedule for next year and it should be approved at our next meeting. After further discussion, the group decided to strike January and August from the 2024 meeting schedule.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned approximately 1 hour after the start.