



# Village of Westchester

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## GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting MINUTES

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 6:30pm

### Village Hall Board Room

**Attending Commissioners:** Liz Wiseman-Chase (LWC), LeeAnn Kruszynski (LAK), Lee Kaufman (LK), Nicole Molinaro (NM), Mariana Nicolae (MN), Nikki Way (NW), Matt Downs (MD)

**Village Representation:** Evie Slavic (ES), Annie Canavan (AC)

**Recorder:** N. Molinaro

**Absent:** Steve Crowley

**Attending Residents:** Leann Pettis (LP), Walter Wojcik (WW)

1. 6:30 - Call to Order - 6:34 pm

2. Pledge

3. Inspiration

- a. LeeAnn Kruszynski [From Solitaire Townsend: "I firmly believe that a better world is possible and even likely. It will happen because of people like you, doing the work, and hopefully, a few helpful wildcards we don't expect. But I don't expect to see that. Even if things get worse, I'll keep working for them to get better, never losing hope that it's possible. As I've said before... the inventors of electricity died by candlelight."](#)
- b. Next Month: 2.1.24 [Evie](#)

4. Roll Call - [Quorum established, 6 commissioners present, - 6:40pm MD arrived - 7 commissioners present.](#)

5. Review of Minutes

- a. Approval of 12-5-23 minutes – Nicole Molinaro  
[LAK motions to approve LK seconds - All Approved](#)

6. Old Business

- a. January Newsletter Submission – Nikki Way - [Putting all newsletter articles written on our GROW page by content/topics. Confusion on space available and formatting and how to send in, staff looking to put together a standard procedure for all to use who send in newsletter articles. WW-Member of parish Cares Group at St. John of the Cross Parish Center in Western Springs. Solutions to Climate Change, February 3rd @ 9:30am interactive presentation.](#)

**Village President**  
GREG HRIBAL

**Village Clerk**  
SOPHIA COLLINS

**Trustees**  
GIA MARIE BENLINE  
PETER MARZANO  
ROBERT MORALES  
EVELYN SLAVIC  
NICK STEKER  
VICTORIA VANN

**Village Manager**  
BARRY KRUMSTOK  
**Asst Village Manager**  
JOHN SCHWARZ

**Village Attorney**  
MATTHEW WELCH

**Commissioners**  
MATT DOWNS  
LEE KAUFMAN  
LEEANN KRUSZYNSKI  
NICOLE MOLINARO  
MARIANA NICOLAE  
NIKKI WAY  
ELIZABETH WISEMAN-  
CHASE

- b. February Newsletter Submission due 1/10/24: Nicole, Nikki Wrote article up to transplanting for 3 mo. preview (Feb/Mch/Apr). Included ad for two events with sign up preference for Climate Action Museum. LK-Up to 50 for capacity at museum event.
- c. March Newsletter Submission due 2/10/24: Mariana Nicolae Potable Water Quality, not gray water. NW-When is upcoming water quality report coming out and have staff or someone help translate it. MN-Spoke to John F about Chicago reports and them not being the same. Westchester completes double check of water quality. Lead much higher here but within limits. Once in three years only for lead others measured each year.
- d. 2023 Planning Calendar –
  - i. *Debrief: “Pumpkin Smash”* 11/4/23 – Matt Downs Pumpkins composted - **3.24 tonnes**. Most we’ve had in previous years. Second location did help. Get data over to village to encourage more composting in future.
- e. 2024 Planning Calendar
  - i. “Buckthorn and Healthy Hedges” with Dave Coulter - 1/18<sup>th</sup> @6:30pm – Nicole Will be recorded. Healthy Hedges on website. Bring examples. ES-Revisit the ordinance after yearlong education.
  - ii. “Climate Action Museum Guided Tour” 2/16<sup>th</sup> & 3/15<sup>th</sup> @2pm - Liz W-Chase Two dates set-up for our community, there are sign-up sheets. Preferred to preregister. Participants may travel there via train. Option for vegan/veggie restaurant. Two people leading tour, an architect and former mayor both on board.
  - iii. “Air Pollution and Your Health” with C. Patricia Macias, MD, MPH 2/24<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00pm - Liz Dr. Macias works with the International Union Against Tuberculous and Lung Disease - A partner organization of the World Health Organization and has lived in others countries. EWC known for 30 years, outstanding person to speak on topic. Trying out later time for winter presentation.
  - iv. “April Showers bring Native Flowers” - Discussion From last month that could be grouped together for event, Paint and Sip Rain Barrels and Green Neighbor Guide, Electric Lawn Care equipment. EWC-Group purchasing equipment. LK-Getting gas out of the household. What does event looks like? Seeds - Particulate matter device to borrow from EPA. Business cards, not out of budget. Shirts for GROW. 5 rain barrels to include seeds. Paint supplies quote. ES-When can we get rain barrels. Have AC connect with MWRD for presentation. NM-Seed quote.
  - v. “Reuse A Palooza” confirmation of 9/14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> dates - LeeAnn Notice to go out in next months’ newsletter for volunteers to market and map. LAK to set up. Prairie Fest that weekend of 14/15<sup>th</sup>. LP-Modchester with Prairie Fest move to weekend before on 7<sup>th</sup>. Move to following weekend 21/22<sup>nd</sup> for Reuse-a-palooza pending confirmation.
  - vi. “EV Car Show” with “Concert in the Park” August date confirmation - Liz Date confirmation with Concert At the Park. Find out what bands are playing and have event with newest music for the future of cars. Start recruiting cars for event. ES-New committee for Events, need to bring to them. At Mayfair Park.

- vii. GROW Education in Westchester Schools – Evie Slavic Greatest impact and outreach to residents. Teaching people more and more about topics. Getting together with schools, who on commission would be interested in presentations at school? Past commissioners could come and help lead educational presentations also. WW-Movie night, son saw Al Gore movie in elementary on a Sat both kids and parents outside of school setting. Extra credit in school or comes with an assignment. MD-Keeping kids safe vetting. Movie in the Park have a climate movie. EWC-One Earth Film festival movies or something similar. Get movies ourselves through library. LK-Trying to fit into curriculum can be difficult. EWC-School buses and air quality. Different flags for air quality. EWC will get more details.

## 8. New Business –

- a. Sidewalk Shaving – LeeAnn Tabled
- b. GROW Ordinance Discussion
  - A.Recruitment: seat being vacated by Matt Downs (term ending 2/24)
  - B.Chairperson terms ending 2/24

Second year of GROW completed. NW-April 2023 appointment. EWC-Put together planning worksheet on terms. Chair positions coming open for 2-year position. EWC one year for Chair and reevaluate. LAK VC for one year.

9. **Public Participation** - *In order to give as many visitors as possible an opportunity to speak and in the interest of adjourning the meeting by 8:00 p.m., please limit your comments to 3 minutes in length, unless further time is granted by the Commission.*

WW-Submitted resume/application to become GROW commissioner. Different background, retired, teacher, scientist and PhD. Health care, science and editor for Journal. Eager to help with climate change and has time to participate.

MN-Researching article, MWRD organizes tours at sites, Stickney - Field Trip possible. Village to contact MWRD, not in summer. How many is maximum allowed? NM-Also field trip for our water house on Crestwood field trip that Steve mentioned in Board meeting.

10. **Closed Session** 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) - *Meeting to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.*

7:38 Enter Executive Session NW motions to approve, LK seconds - All Approved

8:07 Motion to return to Regular meeting LAK motions and NW seconds - All present

Motion to vote EWC and LAK as new Chair and Vice Chair positions for two-year term. LAK motions to approve, NW seconds - All Approved

11. **Adjournment** - 8:11pm LAK motions to approve, LK seconds - All Approve

The Village of Westchester will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Village of Westchester, should contact the office of the Fire Chief, 10300 W. Roosevelt Road, Westchester, IL, (708) 345-0441, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

2024 Goals: Education and Engagement, Advisement, Climate Action Plan

Matt Downs	Pumpkin Smash, Natural Lawn Care
Lee Kaufman	School Bicycling Event, Electric Powered Equipment for Natural Lawn Care
LeeAnn Kruszynski	Tree Walk, Planting Demonstration, Arbnet, Reusa Palooza, Climate Action
Nicole Molinaro	Bee City USA, Composting, Natural Lawn Care, Buckthorn
Mariana Nicolae	Water Quality/Sustainability – Composting, Climate Change Awareness
Nikki Way	Reusa Palooza, Commission Marketing support, Green infrastructure/solar/rain and native garden/ecological interest walk, painted rain barrels
Elizabeth Wiseman-Chase	Climate Action Plan, Air Pollution/Health, Incentives for Electric Appliances, Solar Education and Solar Walk, EV Car Show