



Village of Westchester

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Village President
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Village Attorney
MATTHEW WELCH

Commissioners
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MARIANA NICOLAE
KARI ROBERG
ALEX SILVA
NIKKI WAY
ELIZABETH WISEMAN-
CHASE
WALTER WOJCIK

GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2025 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

1. 6:34 - Call to Order

No Demitrus Evans

2. Pledge

3. Roll Call

4. Inspiration – Demitrus Evans

a. Next Month 6/5/25: **Alex Silva**

5. Review of Minutes – Nikki Way (5 min)

a. Approval of 4/3/25 regular meeting minutes

Kari motions to approve, Walt seconds; all approve.

6. Quarterly Reports – Liz W-Chase (5 min)

a. Q1 - 2025: Kari - will send over a draft the following week.

b. Q2 - 2025: Walt

7. Updates from Village Staff and Board Representatives – (10 min) Annie Canavan, Evie Slavic

a. Buckthorn Grant: Morten Arboretum – will issue an RFP in August and will aim to have work take place in January

b. Energy Efficient Lighting – Will proceed with upgrades in the building and street lights. 68 total will be upgraded to LED.

c. Community Solar Energy Sovereignty and Equitable Energy Future Grants – No update

c. Other

8. New Business

a. Salt Creek Watershed Network – Nikki

b. Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation – Liz attended and networked to meet professionals in the clean transportation space. She learned that ChargePoint partners

with gas stations and other entities interested in installing EV chargers. She met the ComEd Fleet Manager, Les Paul who gave a presentation on ComEd's Fleet. By the end of 2025, 30% of their vehicle fleet will be electrified in some form (fully electric, hybrid or having anti-idling technology). When asked if he could provide one of ComEd's vehicles for the Village's parade, he said yes. Also, met Pete Probst of Indigenous Energy/B20 Club who provides free consultations to fleets to ensure they are successful using biodiesel. He lives in Brookfield and would assist our Village.

8. **Old Business (70 min)**

a. **Greenest Region Compact (GRC) and Subcommittee Updates – Liz (20 min)**

a. Subcommittee reports:

- i. Water – Mariana Nicolae/Walt
 1. Walt asked if the Village would ask from Westbrook and asked to schedule a meeting with Annie after she speaks with the manager. Annie asked Mariana for specific ideas to speak with the manager about.
- ii. Municipal Operations – Kari/(open)
 1. Demitus will join, Kari will follow up
- iii. Climate – Kari/(open)
 - 1.
- iv. Energy – Liz/Walt
 1. Walt and Liz will schedule meeting with Annie and Evie to follow up.

b. **SBC Stipends Fiscal Years Ending (FYE) 4/25 and 4/26– Nikki (10 minutes)**

a. Overview & review of FYE 4/25 approved projects

b. Review of remaining FYE 4/25 projects for FYE 4/26 consideration

- i. Decided to skip bike racks
- ii. Discussed stipend and lending library – the lending library may open up to liability for the village.
- iii. SCARCE – kari reached out to consultant
- iv. Conservation at home – consider a video to present their home, and reimburse if they get the certification; Alex suggests reaching out to the garden club to understand who is certified. Walt suggested that Julie Orr's husband could help with video. Suggest West Cook Wild Ones for map. Alex suggested spotlights for home.
- v. Community Compost Bins – Oak Park, LaGrange has one.
- vi. SBC – can we clarify if compostable utensils are needed? How are they helping people understand what can be put in the bins?

c. Discuss timeline for submission and finalizing by end of FY April 2026

- i. Liz sent out the form after the last meeting – **submissions due for June**
- ii. June the Commission will vote for \$1,500 for the stipend.

c. **Upcoming Event Support Needs - Liz (5 min)**

d. **Newsletter Article Ideas/Support - Liz (5 min)**

9. Comments (5 min)

- **Liz** – Discussed One Earth Film Fest, two uplifting movies. The EV report – as of April 15, Westchester had 156 vehicles in town.

10. 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.*

Lee says good work

11. Adjournment

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.

Kari motions to adjourn, Walt seconds, all approve.



2025 Planning Calendar				
Event	Organizer	Date		
April Movie Night - Common Ground	Walt	April 24, 2025	Completed	
International Composting Awareness Week Tabling	Liz	May 4 - 10	Confirmed	Materials and locations need confirmation. DMV is out, Liz will need copies to be made.
Guided Tour of Metropolitan Water Reclamation District	Mariana	May 15	Confirmed	
Energy Event: Introduction to the Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution (CS2) & Energy Efficiency	Liz	June 17	Confirmed	Need 2 Commissioners to run energy efficiency games while energy efficiency speaker signs residents up for free energy efficiency assessments/kits. 7pm – will be recorded for GROW page. Walt volunteered, Nikki/Kari tentative.
Solar Event with CUB	Liz	June 26	Confirmed	
July 4 th Parade - EV Car / E-Bike Show	Walt	July 4th	Confirmed	Promotion started – 3 people signed up
Town Hall Meeting over morning coffee	Walt		Proposed	
Summer Movie Night	Walt		Proposed	Annie needs to reach out to Phil @ intermediate school.
Home Electrification	Liz	Summer/Fall 2025	Proposed	Defer for time being.
Climate Action Event	Walt	September	Proposed	

Reuse-a-palooza	Nikki	September 20 + 21	Proposed	Confirmed date?
Waste Collection with SCARCE	Kari	Fall 2025 – after Reusapalooza?	Proposed	Parking lot at Church by community center. Will possibly need Public Works to help move traffic and set up tents. Evie suggests getting volunteers – put a call out and ask what they will be doing. Would reach out to other places (pet supply – blankets). Evie asked for a proposal with space needs.

Newsletter Calendar		
Month	Article Topic	Author
Monthly	Plant Based Recipes	Kari
Monthly	Monthly Green Fact	Walt
May 2025	Say Goodbye to Plastic	Walt
June 2025	Slow Mow Summer – be clear so it doesn't violate the ordinance. (Nicole Molinaro has graphic)	Nikki (QR code)
July 2025	Solar	Liz
August 2025		

2025 GROW Commission Priorities: Education/Engagement, Advisement, Climate Action Plan