



Village of Westchester

10300 ROOSEVELT ROAD, WESTCHESTER, IL 60154

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WWW.WESTCHESTER-IL.ORG

GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting

December 1, 2022 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

Village President
NICK STEKER

Village Clerk
JENNIFER HALL

Trustees
TRACY JENNINGS
CATHY KURATKO
TRACY MARKEY
ROBERT MORALES
EVELYN SLAVIC

Village Manager
GREG HRIBAL

Village Attorney
MATTHEW WELCH

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge

3. Inspiration

- a. Mike Doman – “Green is a process not a status, we need to think of Green as a verb and not an adjective”
- b. Next Month: 1/12

4. Roll Call

5. 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.

6. Review of Minutes

- a. Approval of 11-3-2022 minutes

7. Old Business

- a. Pumpkin Smash Debrief (Matt)
- b. Tree Canopy (LeeAnn)
 - i. Westchester’s updated Urban Forest Summary and Change Analysis (LeeAnn)
<https://chicagorti.org/app/uploads/2022/09/WestchesterSummary.pdf>
 - ii. Morton Arboreteum Tree Census Report (LeeAnn)
https://mortonarb.org/app/uploads/2021/05/2020-Chicago-Region-Tree-Census-Report_FIN.pdf
 - iii. Amendment to Illinois Exotic Weed Act: Buckthorn (Nicole) – see attached
- c. Bee City USA (Nicole)
 - i. Natural Lawn Care Solutions/ Dig Right-In Recap (Nicole)
- d. Vehicle Sticker Contest: Nature in Westchester (Evie)
- e. Climate Action Plan (Liz)
 - i. Katharine Hayhoe: Three Climate Change solutions:
<https://baptistnews.com/article/yes-global-warming-remains-dangerous-but-the-evidence-shows-human-action-does-make-a-difference-leading-climatologist-contends/#.Y3qz1-zMLtU>
 - ii. Free ComEd and Nicor Energy Efficiency Assessments
<https://www.comed.com/WaysToSave/ForYourHome/Pages/SingleFamily.aspx>
<https://www.nicorgas.com/residential/ways-to-save/free-products-and-services.html>
 - iii. Nicor Time-limited enhanced rebates for sealing and insulation improvements (12/31/22)

<https://www.nicorgas.com/residential/ways-to-save/rebates/air-sealing-and-insulation-rebates.html>

- iv. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution (CS2) recognized by the US Department of Energy (Liz)

<https://www.energy.gov/communitysolar/sunny-awards-equitable-community-solar>

- f. 2022 Board Report Assignments (Nicole/Liz)
- g. 2023 Calendar (see working document attached)

8. New Business

- a. 2022 Reflection (Nicole)

9. 2022 Goal & Priority: Community Outreach & Engagement

- a. Budget (\$1,500 for GROW booth materials and community outreach events)
- b. Expenditures:
 - i. Cost of banner
 - ii. Consideration of other incurred expenses (July 4th GROW signage, event shirts, and outside printing of bookmarks and leaflet event invites)
- c. Commissioner interests/participation
 - i. Downs – Waste reduction, restoration, reduction in pesticide usage particularly to lawns
 - ii. Kaufman – Alternative transportation, energy, landscaping, land use (placemaking), community engagement for change and improvement
 - iii. Kruszynski – Trash/waste, Trees, Flooding
 - iv. Molinaro – Pesticide awareness and pollinator habitat. To reduce heat islands and make better use of our commons which includes Park District and Schools. Overall environmental literacy and ecological restoration. Flooding and reviewing FEMAs Community Rating System for Westchester.
 - v. Scott - Legislative
 - vi. Wiseman-Chase – Clean air, Clean energy, Climate Action Plan
- a. GROW Participation in Past Events:
 - i. 4/23 – Village Shred/Medication TakeBack, MWRD Compost and Tree Giveaway (Kaufman/Molinaro/Scott/W-Chase)
 - ii. 4/29 – Arbor Day Tree Planting at Westchester Primary School (Molinaro/Scott/W-Chase)
 - iii. 6/16 – Westchester Public Library West Prairie Ribbon Cutting Event (Molinaro/Scott)
 - iv. 7/4 – Village of Westchester - Fourth of July Parade (Downs/Kaufman/Molinaro/Scott/W-Chase)
 - v. 8/27 & 8/28 - Grow Solar Power Hour by Citizens Utility Board (CUB) and MW Renewable Energy Association (MREA) sponsored by GROW EC (W-Chase/Kruszynski/Kaufman/Molinaro/Scott/Slavic)
 - vi. 9/17 - Reusa-Palooza Village Giveaway/Community-Wide Yard Sale sponsored by GROW EC – (Kruszynski/Slavic/Molinaro/Kaufman/Downs)
 - vii. 9/24 – Native Plant Educational Event at Westchester Public Library featuring Dave from “I Love Plants” (Molinaro, W-Chase)
 - viii. 10/1 – Native Plant Sale at Westchester Community Church (Molinaro)
 - ix. 11/5 – Pumpkin Smash sponsored by GROW EC (Downs/Molinaro/Scott/Slavic/W-Chase)

10. 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.