



Village of Westchester

10300 ROOSEVELT ROAD, WESTCHESTER, IL 60154

(708)345-0020 FAX (708)345-2873

WWW.WESTCHESTER-IL.ORG

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GREG HRIBAL

Village Clerk
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KARI ROBERG
ALEX SILVA
NIKKI WAY
ELIZABETH WISEMAN-CHASE
WALTER WOJCICK

GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2025 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

1. 6:30 - Call to Order

2. Pledge

3. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: M. Nicolae, K. Roberg, E. W-Chase, W. Wojcik

Absent: D. Evans, A. Silva, N. Way

Liaison Present: A. Canavan Absent: E. Slavic

Residents Present: Lee and Alice Kaufman

- 4. Inspiration – Demitrus Evans** – Was unable to attend. Liz W-Chase spoke about the shared values of GROW's founding members that are represented on the GROW values tree which include : stewardship sustainability, creativity, advocate, innovation, transparency, integrity, access, and others, but also to remember the value of fun.
- a. Next Month 8/7/25 – Mariana Nicolae

5. Review of Minutes – Liz W-Chase (5 min) –

- a. Approval of 5/1/25 regular meeting minutes
b. Approval of 6/11/25 regular meeting minutes
Motion to table EWC, second WW, all approved

6. Quarterly Reports

- a. Q1 - 2025: Kari Roberg – Pending accomplishments of prior members
b. Q2 - 2025: Walt Wojcik – Working on it
c. Q3 – 2025: Walt Wojcik agreed to write the report

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

- a. Status update: SBC Stipend recommendations – The current years stipend proposals have been approved by the Village Manager
b. Follow-up meetings for Energy and Water subcommittees – Teams need to email A. Canavan and E. Slavic with their availability

c. Energy Plan subcommittee – There will be four meetings held between Sept and Feb, lasting 1.5-2 hrs each. A Community Survey is going out.

8. New Business

a. Federal changes to residential clean energy incentives – Liz. The new EV rebates of up to \$7.5K for a new vehicle and \$4K for any used EV will end on 9/30/25. Solar panel installations must be completed and put into use by 12/31/25 to receive the the 30% Federal tax credit.

b. Identification of target audiences – Demitrus Evans – Was unable to attend. So, will be discussed at a future date.

9. Old Business (50 min)

a. Greenest Region Compact (GRC) and Subcommittee Updates – Liz (15 min)

a. Subcommittee reports:

- i. Water – Mariana/Walt – Did not meet
- ii. Municipal Operations – Demitrus and Kari met, plan to meet monthly. Identified sustainability in special events as an area to move forward with.
- iii. Climate – Alex and Kari met. Currently looking at surrounding communities to see where we can learn from climate/sustainability actions. Future are will also be looking into best practices in communications/engaging people about climate.
- iv. Energy – Liz/Walt – Did not meet, but will submit availability to Evie and Annie

b. **Shared OneDrive Documents – Kari** proposed creating a folder on Microsoft OneDrive for all commissioners to access common documents (such as orientation materials, newsletter guidelines, meeting dates, GROW logos, newsletter topic tracking, tabling inventory, and Greenest Region Compact). Kari to start folder and start gathering documents. Will plan to have a tutorial on how to access OneDrive at an upcoming meeting.

c. Upcoming Event Support Needs - Liz (15 min)

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

Comments (5 min)

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.*

The Kaufman's mentioned they were unable to sign-up for Reuse-a-Palooza with the QR code in the newsletter/flyer. Lee asked about when the Village will start a new Comprehensive Plan.

10. Adjournment – Motion Kari, Second Mariana, All agreed. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm

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.



2025 Planning Calendar				
Event	Organizer	Date		
Centennial Celebration Tabling	Demitrus (not in attendance)	July 12 th 12p – 4p	Approved -	Annie will arrange for GROW to be at Village Table. Kari and Liz agreed to staff table. WW will bring handouts
National Night Out Tabling Promote September Events	Kari/Liz agreed to cover 4-7pm	August 5 th	Approved	Annie will arrange for GROW to be at Village Table. Kari and Liz agreed to staff table
Children's Afternoon Movie: "Wall-E"	Walt – all set and ready to show	August 7 th 2p-4p	Confirmed	Annie helped to get the Westchester Public Library Community Room location for the event
Town Hall Meeting over coffee	Walt -		On Hold until talks with Evie	Panera
Prairie Fest Tabling Promote September Events	Liz Walt will cover 8a-1p Liz will cover 1p – 4p	September 6 th 10a – 4p	Approved – Annie needs one week lead time for support needs	Need volunteers: 10a-12p 12p-2p 2p-4p 4p breakdown
Climate Action	Walt/Kari	September	Approved	In progress – working on getting residents and Commissioners to share short presentations. Discussed possibility of giving away a donated e-leaf blower and a compostable 13 gal kitchen can bag.
Reuse-a-palooza	Nikki/LeeAnn	September 20 th / 21 st	Approved	
Waste Collection with SCARCE	Kari	Fall 2025 – after Reusapalooza?	Proposed.	Nikki and Kari created a short survey for residents to tell us what items they would like collected or repaired. Will go in e-news this week. Planning on an event will be informed by responses.

CUB Solar Event with Marina Minic or Grace Concialdi	Liz	October?	Approved Rescheduling	Will be recorded for GROW page
Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution (CS2) with Sharon Alegado	Liz	October?	Approved Rescheduling	Will be recorded for GROW page.
Tabling Compost/Pumpkin Smash	Kari Mariana/Kari to table	October	Proposed	Discussed Jewel and The Farm as possible locations. Reach out to them about including fliers on pumpkins.
Pumpkin Smash	Kari	November 8 & 9	Approved	Walt asked if date could be moved later – perhaps after Thanksgiving?
Energy Efficiency with Tori Woolbright	Liz	November?	Approved Rescheduling	Need 2 Commissioners to run energy efficiency games while energy efficiency speaker signs residents up for free energy efficiency assessments/kits. Will be recorded
Home Electrification	Liz	Fall/Winter 2025	Proposed	

Newsletter Calendar		
Month	Article Topic	Author
Monthly	Plant Based Recipes	Kari
Monthly	Monthly Green Fact	Walt (Alex to provide for Aug)
August 2025	Bird Migration	Alex
	Federal Changes to Solar, EV, etc. Incentives (blurb/guidance)	Liz
September	Waste reduction/recycling to tie in with Reusa and SCARCE events	Nikki/Kari
October	Pumpkin Smash	
	Solar blurb	

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