

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE
MEETING**

**April 25, 2018
7:00 P.M.
Village Hall Board Room
40 East Center Avenue**

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Village of Lake Bluff Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee (SEC) met on March 22, 2018 in the Village Hall Board Room (40 E. Center Avenue) at 7:01 p.m. and the following members were present:

2. Roll Call

Present: Brian Rener, Co-Chair
 Marina Carney Puryear, Co-Chair
 Emmet Brady
 Jill Danly
 Liz Leutwiler
 Nan Patterson
 Anne Sorensen

Also Present: John Scopelliti, Administrative Intern (AI)
 Jeff Hansen, Village Engineer (VE)

3. Consideration of the January 31, 2018 Sustainability and Community Enhancement Committee (SEC) Meeting Minutes

Member Patterson moved to approve the January 31, 2018 SEC Meeting Minutes. Member Leutwiler seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

4. Consideration of the March 22, 2018 Sustainability and Community Enhancement Committee (SEC) Meeting Minutes

Member Sorensen moved to approve the March 22, 2018 SEC Meeting Minutes. Member Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

5. Non-Agenda Items and Visitors (Public Comment)

Co-Chair Rener stated that the SEC allocates 15 minutes for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the SEC on any matter not listed on the agenda.

There were no requests to address the SEC.

6. Order of the Meeting

Co-Chair Rener motioned to move the Backyard Chicken Pilot Program Application Review to

the beginning of the meeting. Co-Chair Puryear seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

7. General Business

A. Backyard Chicken Pilot Program – Application and Process Review

a. Application review of Julia Magnus, 201 Moffett Road

AI Scopelliti introduced the first, of two, Backyard Chicken applications to the committee for review. AI Scopelliti explained the Application Review process to the committee along with who the applicant is.

Co-Chair Puryear motioned to open the application up for discussion. Member Sorensen seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Co-Chair Rener opened it up for discussion among the members of the committee and anyone in the audience. A brief discussion commenced.

The applicant, Julia Magnus, approached the podium to the address the committee.

Member Leutwiler asked the applicant a question in regards to the roof of the proposed chicken coop.

Julia Magnus explained to Member Leutwiler that the coop is designed to have many different options for entry/exit. Also, the applicant is planning to purchase the largest run extension for the coop, which is the walk-in. The applicant stated that there is a split door, which gives the owner access to the food trays.

Member Leutwiler asked the applicant if there is a way to collect the eggs through the back-end of the coop.

Julia Magnus explained that there are several different approaches. The main approach is opened a door in the back of the structure to access the eggs. Member Leutwiler asked if the applicant would have to walk into the structure to retrieve the eggs. The applicant, Julia Magnus, stated that she will not have to enter the structure to retrieve the eggs.

Co-Chair Puryear asked the applicant about her plans for the winter and how she intends to keep the chickens warm.

Julia Magnus stated that she is very anti-heating to chickens coops in general because she thinks it is a fire hazard and problematic. The applicant stated that if you pick your breeds properly then you don't have to deal with this issue. The applicant confirmed that the coop is double insulated and it also has a special ventilation system to stay cool in the summer.

Member Patterson asked the applicant how many chickens she intends to have.

Julia Magnus stated that she intends to purchase six chickens.

Member Sorensen asked the applicant about her past experience with raising chickens.

Julia Magnus stated that she originally grew up with parrots, but then when she went to college she worked in community gardens that happened to have chickens there. The applicant stated that she has is obsessed with birds. The applicant stated that she could not have parrots in college so she made the transition to chickens. Also, in law school she interacted with chickens often by participating in more community gardens. The applicant also stated that she has many friends in the city that have chickens along with an individual in Lake Villa that raises show chickens so she stated she has gained a lot of hands-on experience through these different connections/resources. The applicant expressed her thoughts that chickens are extremely under-rated as pets.

Member Leutwiler asked the applicant if she knew what type of breed she was intending to purchase.

Julia Magnus stated that she mentioned in her application that she was interested in birds that wouldn't normally be desired for other people because they don't lay eggs or may have inquires with other things or something like that. She stated that she is also an animal welfare nut as well so that is mainly her interest, not necessarily for eggs or need, it's merely to have them as pets. She stated that she has friends that have hens that are done laying eggs and in the city they cannot really hold onto them any longer so she would take them if she could. She would try to get a breed called Orpington, which is an English heritage breed, large-friendly, mellow, and laid back type of bird.

Co-Chair Renner stated that as a part of the pilot program, each application will receive a CDC safety flyer to explain the appropriate ways to keep both themselves and visitors clean when spectating the chickens.

Julia Magnus stated that she understands the process explained in the CDC safety flyer.

Member Danly emphasized to the applicant her appreciation for the rigor of her research and the thoughtfulness that she has in the approach to tending chickens and bringing them on board.

Julia Magnus stated that she is very happy that the Village is allowing residents to have these birds for not only self-sustaining purposed but also for pets.

Member Brady stated that this application is very detailed and any questions that he may have had were already answered through this discussion.

Co-Chair Puryear motioned to approve the Julia Magnus Backyard Chicken Application. Member Leutwiler seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

b. Application review of Colin Ley, 419 East Prospect Ave

AI Scopelliti introduced the second Backyard Chicken application to the committee for

review. AI Scopelliti explained the Application Review process to the committee along with who the applicant is.

Co-Chair Puryear motioned to open the application up for discussion. Member Sorensen seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

The applicant, Colin Ley, approached the podium to address the committee.

Co-Chair Rener asked the applicant to explain the location of the property and fencing.

Colin Ley stated that he lives at the corner off Prospect Ave and Moffett Road and there is a 6 foot wooden fence on all sides of the backyard where the chickens will be kept. Co-Chair Rener asked if there were any openings between the pickets. Colin Ley explained that there are no openings and that it is a flush picket fence.

Member Sorensen asked out of curiosity for the adjoining neighbor, if the applicant had any pets.

Colin Ley explained that he does have two dogs. He stated that he has been emailing back and forth with the resident. Colin stated that he told the resident his plan to alleviate any issues would be to let the chickens out to roam the backyard only when he is home so that if he hears the dog barking, he will bring the chickens back into the coop. Colin stated that if that does not alleviate the problem that he would consider moving the chickens to another location within the backyard. Colin expressed that he has dogs too so he'll be able to see firsthand if the chickens and his dogs can exist with one another without any issues.

Member Leutwiler asked the applicant if there are any issues with his dog and his neighbor's dog.

Colin Ley stated that all his neighbors have dogs and there does not seem to be an issue but there is an occasional bark here and there but nothing threatening. Colin stated that the chickens will be afraid of the dogs so he does not expect the chickens to agitate the dogs at all.

Member Leutwiler stated that the letter received was very nice and that the neighbor seems like a great person. Colin Ley supported that statement.

Co-Chair Puryear asked the applicant his intentions with this coop and if he plans to move it around the backyard.

Colin Ley responded by stating he intends to move the enclosure when the ground is worked up and needs to be cared to. He only plans to move the coop a couple feet here and there to areas that are not beat up.

Co-Chair Puryear asked the applicant what his plan was for the coop during the winter

and if the coop has insulation.

Colin Ley stated that he does not plan to keep the birds over the winter.

Member Danly asked the applicant where the chickens go then.

Colin Ley stated that he would deal with that situation off the property.

Co-Chair Puryear asked the applicant if he was purchasing mature chickens that can lay.

Colin Ley stated that he plans to purchase mature hens that can lay eggs. He stated that he would collect the rejects from the farm he is purchasing the birds from.

Member Patterson asked what the height of the fence was again because she was trying to see if the height would be an issue.

Co-Chair Renner stated the fence is six feet tall so it wouldn't be an issue with the dog seeing the chicken but it would be an issue in regards to the dog hearing or smelling the chickens.

Member Brady asked the applicant if he and his neighbor have been exchanging emails and were able to come to an agreement.

Colin Ley stated that his neighbor emailed him later that day, after all the chain emails, stating that he supports the applicant moving forward.

Member Sorensen motioned to approve the Colin Ley Backyard Chicken Application. Co-Chair Puryear seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

B. Stormwater & Flood Mitigation Presentation – Village Engineer, Jeff Hansen

AI Scopelliti introduced *Village Engineer*, Jeff Hansen to the committee. *Village Engineer* Jeff Hansen approached the podium to talk about his Stormwater & Flood Mitigation Presentation.

VE Hansen explained to the committee that what he has brought before them is general stormwater information and is not site specific. VE Hansen said that this is tailored to sustainability and flood mitigation efforts. VE Hansen stated that he would explain the Village's responsibilities towards flood mitigation and where are some areas of concern for stormwater within the village.

An individual from the audience asked VE Hansen a question in regards to one of his slides about intakes and the types of systems that can be below your street. A short conversation commenced then VE Hansen continued his presentation.

Member Sorensen asked VE Hansen about the types of plants that would be located by bio swales.

VE Hansen explained that you want plants that are both water-tolerant and salt-tolerant. A brief discussion commenced then VE Hansen continued his presentation.

An individual from the audience asked VE Hansen a question in regards to one of his slides that showed a construction site that had illegal accessibility for trucks to use for the site. A short conversation commenced then VE Hansen continued his presentation.

VE Hansen completed his presentation and opened it up for questions and discussion.

An individual from the audience asked VE Hansen a question in regards to where the water goes once it enters the storm drain.

VE Hansen stated that the water goes directly to Lake Michigan in most cases. He stated that sometimes the system is connected to a ravine so the water goes straight there, but other times the water is an open swale so it absorbs the water. A brief conversation commenced.

An individual from the audience asked VE Hansen how deep the storm drains are and if they are drugged out.

VE Hansen stated that the storm sewer is drugged out, normally in the fall. He also stated that the depth of the storm drains vary but most are either 1' or 4' deep. He stated that they are this deep due to the water mains being 5' feet deep so you don't want to run into any issues by confusing the two lines.

An individual from the audience asked both VE Hansen and the SEC Committee what the plan is moving forward with addressing flooding situations at both Arbor Drive and the viaduct.

Co-Chair Renner stated that this would be more of a Village Board topic of discussion and that when he was a trustee, the Board was trying to figure out a solution to the viaduct then too. Co-Chair Renner explained to this individual what the goal of the SEC is and what is in their realm to be able to act on and discuss.

An individual from the audience asked VE Hansen about septic tanks and other materials for draining and how to go about these pieces of equipment when they back up. VE Hansen gave a brief background in regards to septic tanks and how to go about them being effective when large floods occur.

Another individual asked VE Hansen about some flooding on her street and her home specifically. VE Hansen responded to the individual to the best of his knowledge.

Co-Chair Puryear asked VE Hansen a question in regards to the mosquito abatement techniques and if they have any effect on our storm sewer systems. VE Hansen did not really have an answer for this question based off the fact that these individuals do not need to report to VE Hansen to let him know what chemicals they are using and that they are throwing these hockey puck looking items into the inlets to alleviate any new-born mosquitoes. An

individual from the audience explained who is doing the mosquito abatement, the company is called Clark.

Member Leutwiler asked if there is a type of continental divide for the storm water system. VE Hansen responded to this question by explaining the flow of the water once in the system.

Member Patterson asked if there are any studies moving forward for some of the areas that see major flooding within the village. VE Hansen stated that there have been studies that started before the beginning of the year.

Member Danly asked about if anything was considered by the home that was built by Union Church. VE Hansen explained what the Village has new homes do to help alleviate flooding in the village.

Member Brady asked what the perfect solution is to resolve the stormwater flooding within the village. VE Hansen stated that the number one priority would be to address the homes that encounter water in their homes during these large rains. He stated that once you start changing things, you affect other areas. VE Hansen stated that in a perfect world, you would scrap the whole system and start over again.

Co-Chair Renner started talking about ravine erosion and how he helped the Village Board try to address this issue when he was on the board with Co-Chair Puryear. He also stated how extremely expensive that type of project costs.

VE Hansen talked about an evasive tree species, Norway Maple, which is affecting the growth of vegetation in the ravine due to the size of the trunk.

Co-Chair Puryear mentioned that the landscaping companies that dump their grass/leaf clippings down the ravine is also increasing the ravine erosion.

VE Hansen stated that any individual that wants a storm water pipe has to bury it at the bottom of the ravine to decrease ravine erosion.

Member Sorensen asked if the village had any type of guidelines towards bio-swales or native plantings to help alleviate flooding.

VE Hansen stated that there is possibly one at Target and one present at the elementary school. VE Hansen stated that the village does not own any bio-swales throughout the village. A brief conversation commenced.

Member Sorensen asked if there are some native and/or non-native plants that would be effective for the type of soil and environment surrounding Lake Bluff.

VE Hansen stated that he is not a plant expert but that he's sure there are probably some species of plants that would work effectively in the village.

Member Patterson asked VE Hansen what would be one or two things that this committee should recommend to residents to do in their own homes to help alleviate any potential flooding on their property.

VE Hansen stated that downspout and other local pipe disconnections from the local drain would be very effective. Also, he stated that encouraging rain barrels and rain gardens would be small goals but possibly effective solutions.

Another individual approached the podium asking VE Hansen about any solutions he can possibly do for his property specifically. A brief discussion commenced.

Co-Chair Renner talked about being interested in receiving study cases from other towns and how they have addressed their flooding issues. A brief discussion commenced.

8. Village Staff Report

a. Earth Day Event – Improve our Village (LBOLA)

AI Scopelliti explained that this event had passed and wanted to see if anyone had attended.

b. Earth Day and Environmental Forum (LFHS & Lake Forest League of Women Voters)

AI Scopelliti introduced this event to the committee and then Member Sorensen took over and explained a little more detail as to what it is about and if these event is interested in having the SEC present.

Member Brady stated that he would be able to attend this event since he will already be at the high school.

AI Scopelliti informed the committee that staff is willing to gather information for the expo but expressed that staff would like members of the committee to volunteer for this event.

AI Scopelliti informed the committee about some changes that will be occurring within the committee. AI Scopelliti explained to the committee that Member Jill Danly would be leaving the SEC to join the Joint Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals committee (PCZBA). AI Scopelliti also explained that the SEC would be adding Member Leslie Bishop to the SEC committee from the PCZBA committee.

AI Scopelliti talked with the committee about what they would like to see on next month's agenda. Member Danly talked about the Dark Sky initiative. Co-Chair Renner talked about some of the lighting around the village along with the work he will be doing with the exterior lighting at the PSB. Member Leutwiler was curious if some of the new lighting that has gone in around town is Dark Sky compliant.

9. Member's Report

Member Brady talked about some events and articles that Lake Forest High School has done to emphasize recycling and sustainable efforts. He stated that he will share the links to this information with AI Scopelliti.

10. Co-Chair's Report

Co-Chair Puryear talked about the ComEd assessment to confirm the information she talked about in the March meeting. Co-Chair Puryear also talked about the drug drop-off box at the PSB and appropriately using this resource instead of depositing these items in the local sewer systems.

Co-Chair Rener brought up the idea of possible sub-task committee member roles moving forward. He explained that, for example, the individual that is the student representative of the SEC committee could work with the elementary school and middle school with helping them understand what the committee is about and what the goals of this committee are.

11. Adjournment

As no further business came before the SEC, Co-Chair Puryear moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46p.m. Member Sorensen seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Scopelliti
Administrative Intern