

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION

First Floor Conference Room
53 South La Grange Road
La Grange, IL 60525

Wednesday, November 12, 2014— 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Environmental Quality Control Commission of the Village of La Grange was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at the Village Hall and was called to order by Chairman Glenn Wentink at 6:32 p.m.

PRESENT (and constituting a quorum): Commissioners Battistoni, Christianson, Nasif, and Weber, with Chairman Wentink presiding.

ABSENT: Commissioners Davies and Gabrek

ALSO PRESENT: Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson, Building Inspector Patrick Boyle and Speaker Bob Newport, IEPA.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Nasif, seconded by Commissioner Battistoni to approve the minutes from September 22, 2014. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. BUSINESS AT HAND

Chairman Wentink introduced Mr. Bob Newport from the U.S. EPA. In follow up to the discussion at the last EQCC meeting, Mr. Newport was invited to speak to the Commission about “green” approaches to stormwater management.

Mr. Newport provided an overview of various constructed features that mimic natural systems in certain situations to control flooding, including rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavement and green roofs. Large runoff volumes particularly in areas with a significant amount of impervious surfaces can contribute to localized flooding and basement back-ups. Changes in the storms experienced in the Chicago area are also a factor as they tend to be more intense and occur within a shorter period of time than in the past. Mr. Newport provided examples of ways to incentivize the incorporation of additional green infrastructure building and sustainably manage stormwater discharges. The appropriate use of the various green infrastructure related options can be evaluated by the Village when

constructing public infrastructure projects and also by private property owners when considering home and property related improvements.

Commissioners asked Mr. Newport several questions regarding the absorption of permeable pavers in clay soils; maintenance requirements of permeable parking lots; plant material for bioswales along roadways; utility conflicts and grading issues when considering bioswales in parkways; green alleys; terracing systems used in steep properties; reservoir locations; use of special assessments to fund bioswales; maintenance requirements for bioswales; design of rain gardens; and overhead sewers.

Assistant Village Manager Peterson provided an overview of the various capital projects that the Village has identified to help address flooding throughout the community. As a result of severe storms over the summer, the Village recently held public meetings to discuss a plan to identify and fund stormwater management projects particularly in the area south of 47th Street.

Building Inspector Patrick Boyle provided an overview of the Village's residential site development requirements and ways in which the Village currently incentivizes and promotes green building practices. Mr. Boyle showed Commissioners an example of a drainage plan submitted for the construction of a new home and explained the process that the Village uses to evaluate and permit projects. He explained that new construction is required to have stormwater engineering in order to retain water on the property as long as possible. Each situation is evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the amount of storage required, topography issues, outlets, and design alternatives.

Commissioners received a copy of the information disseminated to residents on the website and by handout to help promote awareness of green construction alternatives. The Village does provide technical assistance to residents. Chairman Wentink asked Commissioners to review the documents and provide any comments to Ms. Peterson regarding how the information could be improved.

Commissioners also discussed other public awareness opportunities including a possible workshop regarding rain barrels; promoting green construction in businesses; additional incentives for homeowners to incorporate green infrastructure on private property; and identifying native plant materials. Chairman Wentink asked Commissioner Nasif to review best management practices in regard to these matters and to provide the information to Ms. Peterson.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Peterson provided an update to the EQCC regarding the Emerald Ash Borer, specifically the status of the trees that are being treated, the number of trees that have been removed and replaced, the caliper of the replacement trees and the varieties of trees that are considered for replacement.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None

6. SCHEDULE NEXT EQCC MEETING

The Commission determined that the next meeting would include a presentation by the BNSF and the Fire Chief regarding the safe transportation of crude oil by rail. Staff will coordinate a meeting date with Commissioners and the featured speakers in December or January.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business before the Environmental Quality Control Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrianna Peterson
Assistant Village Manager