



## Village of Antioch - Environmental Commission

### Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2011

1. Called to Order: The Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Babicz at 6:30 pm in the Board Room at Antioch Village Hall: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL.

Present: Chairman Babicz, Members Melonnie Hartl, , Brent Bluthardt, Glenn Semple, Casey Furlong, Cynthia Stepanek arrived at 6:34, Village Trustee Scott Pierce arrived at 6:56.

Guests present: Chris Philbrick

Absent: Peter Grant

2. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the meeting from April 25, 2011 by Glenn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Voice vote – All aye.

3. Old Business:

- a. Candidate Tom Neuman was not contacted by the village, but Brent spoke with him and he is still interested. Meredith Schnelle was not able to attend the meeting. Both candidates will be invited to attend the June meeting.
- b. Committee assignments will be postponed until the new members have joined.
- c. Com Garden update – Melonnie reported that the village is working on installing the water access and having a fence installed around the perimeter. A group of students and teachers from AUGS helped to remove debris and rocks from the soil at the garden site recently as part of a service project. Sources for soil and compost are being explored.
- d. Events – EcoFair 360 – Cynthia will speak about how we formed our commission, and how we got the garden going.

-Mel & Cynthia to attend the County Green Conference tomorrow. A report will be given at the June meeting.

4. New Business:

- a. Chris Philbrick with Sieben Energy Associates, Chicago presented information on an energy audit.
  - i. Incentives are available from the IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for energy efficiency. Chris explained that money for the fund comes from a portion of every persons bill based on KW hours of personal service. Com Ed is in charge of managing the money and distributes the money back to corporations. The other portion is managed by state and money is distributed to agencies, schools, etc.
  - ii. The money is used for electric or gas utilities, (majority for electric) for residential or municipal energy efficiency projects. Energy audits for villages can be done and the money would be given back as a rebate. All buildings can have an audit done.

- iii. Chris  
passed out guidelines with DCEO's IL Energy NOW. June 1st – Standard and public incentives and applications are included in packet. More information is available on their web site.
- iv. A question  
was brought up if the audit would cover street lighting? Biggest energy usage in the village is from street lights and wastewater treatment facility. Custom audits or projects could possibly be done to include street lights.
- v. An audit is  
NOT necessary to be eligible for a grant or rebate for this. The money is given out per year. Applications must be submitted as soon as possible to the acceptance date. However, the state is slow to distribute the funds back, but the money MUST be used to give back to the people.
- vi. An  
applicant must be pre-approved for a project, then the project must be completed and proof shown that the work was done before the money would be distributed. DCEO then hires the auditors. The application must be done to have the audit paid for.
- vii. In some  
cases, as much as 25% of a project could be paid for, but the true savings would be the energy saved by purchasing more efficient equipment.
- viii. Chris will  
provide us with all the information needed to start the process for an “energy audit for public buildings”.
- ix. The larger  
program would be great for schools. (Hillcrest has already received a grant from ComEd and had an audit done.)
- b. No  
information was received from Shawn about the earth-friendly products.
- c. Cynthia –  
brought in a Mother Earth magazine article about communities providing food locally.

**Next Meeting: June 27, 2011 at 6:30 pm.**

Motion to Adjourn: The motion was made by Brent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Casey. All aye.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Submitted by Melonnie Hartl