

Village of Romeoville

Conservation & Sustainability Committee

Promoting Conservation and Environmental Stewardship
Education and Outreach of Community Initiatives
Ideas on the Development of Conservation Measures and Sustainable Practices

Minutes
September 10, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm

Present: Chair Erica Moreno, Secretary Alaina Moreno, Dan Casey, Theresa Capone, Keith Eichorst, Joe Miraglia, Brandi Nassenstein

Absent: Art Arellano, Chris Arellano, Jennifer Gabrenya, Kevin Tanksley

Board Liaison: Trustee Lourdes Aguirre

Village Staff Liaison: Village Manager Dawn Caldwell

Village Staff: Director of Public Works Chris Drey, Public Works Superintendent of Operations Lisa Allen

Guests: Analise Maldonado, Mateusz Lebica

Attendees Introduced Themselves.

Approval of August 13th Minutes - Motion by Nassenstein, seconded by Eichorst, All in Favor; motion carried.

New Business

The committee agrees to head the Bluebell Festival in early May 2026.

Nassenstein proposed a farmers' market for the festival. Aguirre discusses compost show'n'tell for the event. A. Moreno adds the possibility of partnering with Romeoville High School for this.

E. Moreno proposes hosting a giveaway for the Bluebell Festival. Miraglia adds the possibility of partnering with Blain's Farm and Fleet for the giveaway.

Drey notes the annual woods walk challenge, and the committee agrees to have nature walks as part of the Festival, so residents are able to see the Bluebells. Eichorst proposes creating signs to educate people on Native plants throughout their walk.

Caldwell suggests hosting a scavenger hunt during the festival to garner community engagement. The Goose Chase App is discussed as a possible choice for the scavenger hunt. Casey encourages the committee to make this a weekly or biweekly event following the Festival to maintain the Village's interest in Native life and Conservation efforts.

The committee looks at partnering with V3 Engineering in search of speakers to guide exhibitions for kids/teens at the festival.

The website is updated with the most current information on the committee's efforts. This includes the addition of the Conservation@Work certification.

Aguirre proposes adding a gallery to all pages on the Conservation & Sustainability Committee section of the Village of Romeoville Website. The committee agrees to create informational videos on social media about Native plants/species and conservation in the Village. Eichorst and Casey agree to front this initiative.

The committee agrees that the Water Conservation efforts of the Village, including the switch to Lake Michigan water, must be linked to the committee's section of the website.

As a way to boost public engagement, the committee wants to incorporate a Monarch Waystation countdown on the website that counts down the number of waystations until the Village reaches the goal in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge.

This upcoming month, the committee will host a spot at the Village of Romeoville Trunk or Treat. Aguirre, Casey, Miraglia, A. Moreno, and E. Moreno agree to volunteer for the event.

Caldwell discusses the idea of a kayak or canoe drop event at Isle a Cache, as well as a future sip'n'paint event for residents.

Allen discusses the committee's new responsibilities as the Tree Board. Part of the committee's future efforts must include information to residents on general education and awareness of trees in the Village (i.e., maintenance, native versus invasive species, etc.).

Public Works has cataloged every tree in the parkways with photos, species name, risk factor, cost of maintenance, and location. The hope with cataloging all tree species in the parkways is to be proactive in managing new diseases that may affect trees, as well as effectively replace invasive or high-risk trees such as Bradford Pear and Ash Trees.

The tree replacement initiative is a six-year program that will start in Poplar Ridge and Malibu Bay neighborhoods. There are two planting seasons (spring and fall) during which tree replacements will be spaced out so as not to damage the parkways.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 7:03 pm made by Nassenstein, seconded by Eichorst, All in Favor; motion carried.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 6 pm - Executive Session Room 1B13

(Through the Village Board Room)