



Health, Education & Welfare Committee Agenda

June 17, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Health, Education & Welfare Committee

Dara Wood, Chair
Keely Paul
Jay Shatz

Staff Liaison

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Chris Fritsch, Zoning and Project Administrator

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes: April 15, 2026

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. Proposal from the Environmental Stewardship Committee to change the Village's property maintenance code to allow and encourage native and natural landscaping in yards.

ADJOURNMENT

Health Education and Welfare Committee Meeting 4-15-26

In Attendance:

Dara Wood, Committee Chair,
Jay Shatz
Keely Paul
Scot Lahrmer Village Manager
Nancy Warren HRC Committee Member

Jay moved to approve minutes from November 5th meeting, Keely second. Minutes approved.

Discussion:

Nancy Warren from Human Rights Commission explained the commission request to participate in selection of members to the HRC.

The following request was received from the Commission:

“FROM: The Human Rights Commission (Nancy Warren, Matthew Kraus, Evelyn Jones, Jymi Bolden, Barbara Boles)

According to Human Rights Ordinance No 2018-4, in Section 102.04, the 5 Commission members are to be “appointed as follows: one member shall be appointed by the Village Manager; one member shall be appointed by the Village Mayor; and three members shall be appointed by a majority vote of Village Council.” Further, the Ordinance states: “Any vacancy shall be filled by the authority which made the initial appointment for the position.”

The Ordinance does not specify the process for filling vacancies such as who reviews applications, interviews candidates, and makes final decisions. It appears that, currently, the HEW Committee has a key role in the process, which has worked well to recruit well-qualified members with diverse backgrounds and interests. We believe this process would be enhanced by including a member of the HR Commission to work with HEW to review applications, interview, and recommend candidates. Also, including a member of the HR Commission (determined by the HRC) will be able to inform potential candidates of past and potential future projects other matters specific to the work of the Commission. “

Discussion: The Committee felt this was a positive addition to the process. Applications are already public record. The meeting where they are interviewed is as all, anyone can attend so we don't need to change an ordinance.

Motion made by Jay Shatz to include in our committee's process to send any applications to HRC Chair for her and/or her committee to see and if desired to have a preliminary conversation with the candidate to give them more information and answer any questions. We will also invite HRC Chair/Committee to the public meeting/interview so they can give more context about the committee and what they do, are welcome to ask questions of the

applicant, and can give feedback to the HEW Committee. The HEW Committee will still be the one that votes and makes the official recommendation, or not, to the full Council. Keely Second. Motion passes.

Committee Adjourned by 5:24

DRAFT

PROPOSED OPENING STATEMENT FOR WEBSITE AFTER CODE IS APPROVED

<https://www.amberleyvillage.org/property-maintenance>

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

~~In response to resident concerns,~~ Council adopted the Property Maintenance Code in 2007 which establishes standards for home maintenance as well as provides for enforcement of Code violations. ~~Basically, the Village requires properties to appear neat and uncluttered when viewed from the street, and in no way present a nuisance or health hazard to neighbors or the public. For complete definitions and details, read through the~~ **Property Maintenance Code**. ~~The Village recognizes growing community interest in sustainable landscaping and food security. Numerous municipalities across the U.S. have adopted similar ordinances in support of urban agriculture, native planting, and ecological landscaping. Residents have also expressed aesthetic interests ranging from traditional turf grass to natural landscapes, with many gradations between.~~

With that in mind, applicable Amberley Village Codes were revised and adopted by Council [TBD] in response to resident desire to help restore ecological balance through Managed Natural Landscape practices that promote a healthy environment for people and wildlife while preserving public safety and enhancing neighborhood aesthetics. Revised codes include: 95.40 Noxious Weeds, 154.82 Signage Regulations, 159.162 Drainage Swales, 159.164 Weeds and Firewood Piles, and 159.196 Roofs and Drainage. For complete definitions and details, read through the **Property Maintenance Code**.

The Village seeks to give landowners the choice to employ varying degrees of Managed Natural Landscaping as viable and desirable landscape alternatives to Managed Traditional Landscapes. Managed Natural Landscapes provide ecological benefits such as increasing pollinator habitat, stormwater management, carbon sequestration, erosion control, and supporting biodiversity.

“Managed or maintained” means regularly cultivated, weeded, pruned, trimmed, tied, and/or managed so as to avoid the appearance of neglect, overgrowth, or disease.

This code revision reflects a balanced approach that supports residents’ right to manage their land in ecologically responsible ways, while maintaining the Village’s standards for safety and appearance. It enables forward-thinking land stewardship without compromising neighborhood character.

PROPOSED CODE UPDATES

§ 154.82 SIGNAGE REGULATIONS.

(A) *Generally.* No sign may be posted on public property or within the public right-of-way along public roads, except village corporation signs, highway directional or regulatory signs and traffic safety signs erected and maintained by public agencies. All signs shall be placed in such manner that they will not obstruct the vision of drivers with regard to oncoming or intersecting traffic on any public or private roads or driveways. Only the following types of signs are permitted.

(B) *Building signs.* Any business or other permissible use shall be permitted one square foot of building sign surface area for each foot of building frontage that fronts a public right-of-way, including Ronald Reagan Highway, or the facade that contains the main entrance to the building and such building signage shall be located on the facade from which the measurement is taken.

(C) *Freestanding signs.* Businesses and/or centers containing multiple businesses shall be permitted a maximum of one monument or pole sign for the business or center for the joint use of all tenants for which the facility is designed, including any outlots, subject to the following criteria.

(1) Signs shall be allowed only for parcels with at least 150 feet of frontage adjoining a public street.

(2) Freestanding signs shall not exceed 20 feet in height.

(3) The sign shall be setback a minimum of five feet from all public rights-of way and private access easements.

(4) The supporting structure of a pylon sign shall not include exposed metal pole(s), but shall be surrounded by a decorative cover that is architecturally compatible with the sign cabinet and the architectural character of buildings on the site.

(5) Freestanding signs shall be a minimum of 20 feet from a lot line of any residentially zoned or used property.

(6) Signs shall have a message area of not more than 50 square feet for single tenant facilities or 150 square feet for multi-tenant facilities.

D. Managed Natural Landscape signs. Educational and informative signage regarding Managed Natural Landscapes may be displayed year-round.

1. Such signs shall not exceed 2x2 feet in dimensions, and the supporting post shall not exceed 6 feet in height. All signs must be maintained in good condition and placed so as not to obstruct traffic or pedestrian visibility.

(Ord. 2012-05, passed 8-13-12)

§ 159.162 STORMWATER AND EROSION CONTROL DRAINAGE SWALES.

The incorporation of landscape and hardscape elements to slow down, collect, and allow excess stormwater to sink in, can help prevent erosion and runoff from overwhelming private and municipal properties (e.g. storm sewers and roads). Examples of such elements include: dry creeks, bioswales, rain gardens, and pervious surfaces (e.g. pavers, pervious asphalt, and pervious concrete).

Swales are to be maintained by the owners of the premises on which they are located, and at no time will anyone ~~plant shrubs and/or trees, or discharge, empty, or~~ place any material, fill or waste into any swale so as to divert or impede drainage flow, with the exception of implementing a design to slow or control stormwater runoff. ~~Swales should be mowed as part of the yard. In meadow situations the swales should be mowed less frequently in order to allow grasses to grow taller to retard runoff and prevent erosion.~~ Swales in woodland areas should be left in their natural condition leaving understory growth to retard runoff and prevent erosion.

(Ord. 2007-16, passed 7-16-07)

§ 159.164 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT WEEDS AND FIREWOOD PILES.

An owner, authorized agent, or authorized occupant of any Amberley Village property may install and maintain **Managed Traditional Landscapes and/or Managed Natural Landscapes.**

Managed Traditional Landscapes include the use of turf grasses and woody plants (shrubbery and trees) with defined areas for cultivation of annual and perennial plants, as well as fruits or vegetables, and shall be maintained free from **weeds¹** and **invasive plants²**. Mowed areas shall not exceed ten inches in height.

Managed Natural Landscape refers to intentionally planted and maintained areas of volunteer and/or planted native and non-native plants. Managed Natural Landscapes may include plants that exceed 10 inches in height and/or plants that have gone to seed. These areas should be free from **weeds¹** and **invasive plants²**. Managed Natural Landscape areas must be clearly defined by edging, fencing, landscaping material, or abutting mowed areas. Managed Natural Landscape areas shall not extend into the public right of way.

Any property owner planning to convert areas on the front of their property to a Managed Natural Landscape may provide appropriate educational signage. Signage must be compliant with all regulations outlined in code 154.82.

—Except for those publicly owned lands which have been designated as meadowlands by the Village Council, all premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds in excess of ten inches. All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs, provided however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers, decorative grasses and gardens. The designation of meadowland is reserved exclusively for publicly owned lands and cannot be applied to residentially owned property.

All firewood piles must be neatly stacked and cannot be located in the front yard of any residence. (Ord. 2007-16, passed 7-16-07; Am. Ord. 2011-11, passed 8-8-11; Am. Ord. 2013-02, passed 3-11-13; Am. Ord. 2020-8, passed 7-13-20)

1. **Weeds** shall mean non-cultivated plants over 10” that are not intentionally managed and are not prohibited **noxious weeds** as identified by the Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 901:5-37-01. This definition does not include native grasses, wildflowers, or other plants used in managed native meadows, prairie-style plantings, rain gardens, or similar ecological landscapes.

2. Intentionally established landscapes shall not include planting of **invasive plants** as identified by the Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 901:5-30.

§ 95.40 NOXIOUS WEEDS.

—(A) Any person owning or having charge of land within the municipality, shall keep the property free and clear from all noxious weeds and rank vegetation.

—(B) Noxious weeds and rank vegetation shall include but not be limited to:

—(1) Any weeds such as poison ivy, jimson, burdock, ragweed, thistle, cocklebur, or other weeds of a like kind;

~~— (2) Bushes of the species of tall, common, or European barberry, further known as berberis vulgaris or its horticultural varieties;~~

~~— (3) Any weed or wild growth which, by reason of the pollen or seed spread by it, or the density of its growth, or its unsightliness, injuriously affects the public health, safety or welfare.~~

~~— (C) All noxious weeds are declared nuisances.~~

~~('69 Code, § 96.01) (Ord. C-18, passed 2-14-55; Am. Ord. C-138, passed 3-9-59; Am. Ord. 2011-11, passed 8-8-11; Am. Ord. 2013-02, passed 3-11-13)~~

§ 159.196 ROOFS AND DRAINAGE.

The roof and flashing shall be sound, tight and not have defects that admit rain. Roof drainage shall be adequate to prevent dampness or deterioration in the walls or interior portion of the structure. Roof drains, gutters and down spouts shall be maintained in good repair and free from obstructions. ~~Roof water shall not be discharged in a manner that creates a public nuisance.~~

Downspouts may be discharged onto property for irrigation or into rainwater capture systems in lieu of discharging into streets or storm sewers. Roof water shall not be discharged onto neighboring private property or in a manner that creates a public nuisance.

(Ord. 2007-16, passed 7-16-07)