



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Phone: (608) 437-6884 Fax: (608) 437-3190

Email: mhinfo@mounthorebwi.info Web: mounthorebwi.info

SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Municipal Building Board Room

138 E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
 - a. Roll Call
- 2) Public Comment on Non Agenda Items
- 3) Agenda Items
 - a. Consideration of April 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Village Ethics Policy
 - c. Approval of SolSmart Letter of Intent
 - d. Consider Ad Hoc Committee for SolSmart Certification
 - e. Discussion Committee Youtube Channel, possible social media page
- 4) Pollinator Garden
 - a. Discussion: Pollinator Garden Tour and Stewart Park Project Programming
 - b. Discussion/Consideration: SNR Mount Horeb Mail Column
 - c. Update: Pollinator/Natural Garden Ordinance
- 5) SNR Survey Results
 - a. Presentation and Discussion: Final SNR Survey Results
 - b. Discussion/Approval: Article on Survey Results
- 6) Discussion: Future Agenda Items
- 7) Meeting adjournment.

UPON REASONABLE NOTICE, EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS THROUGH APPROPRIATE AIDS AND SERVICES. FOR INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST THIS SERVICE, CONTACT ALYSSA GAFFNEY, CLERK, AT 138 E MAIN STREET, MOUNT HOREB, WI (608) 437-9404.



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SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Call to order
Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 - a. Roll Call
Members White, Beheler, Grabe, Saltes, Gottwald, Gauger (7:34) and Youth in Government Student Ethan Fendrick were present. Tom Butosov was absent. Administrator Owen was also present.
- 2) Agenda Items
 - a. Consideration of March 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Motion by Beheler, second by White to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
 - b. Introduction of new committee members, Elizabeth Grabe and Nate Gauger
New members Grabe and Gauger were introduced to the committee.
 - c. Discussion: Debrief of Election Day Survey
White gave an overview of survey responses. The committee was impressed with the number of responses and feedback and thanked those who volunteered for their efforts.
 - d. Discussion: Debrief of Sustain Dane/SNR Joint Event
All members felt the event was very well attended and was a great opportunity to highlight success stories and network. All felt they would like to partner with Sustain Dane again on a future event.
 - e. Discussion: Debrief of Rotary Club Presentation
Beheler and Grabe gave an overview of the presentation. There was great interest from Rotary members on the pollinator ordinance being drafted.
 - f. Recommendation of Pollinator Ordinance
White thanked Beheler and Saltes for their work on the ordinance. Beheler and Saltes reviewed the ordinance with the committee. Administrator Owen said if recommended for approval, the ordinance will undergo legal review then go to the Board for approval,

likely at their June meeting. Motion by Gottwald to recommend approval, second by Grabe. Motion carried with Beheler abstaining.

g. Recommendation: Sol Smart Participation

White provided a background on SolSmart's. SolSmart provides free technical assistance to municipalities and a tiered ranking system for community solar friendliness. The Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change staff has offered to assist us through the process. Currently Madison and Fitchburg are the only members certified in the program. Motion by Gauger, second by Gottwald to recommend participation. Motion carried.

h. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items include a revised garden ordinance to include ornamental flowers, planning for the next SNR event, discussion on community outreach and discussion on a potential grant opportunity.

3) Meeting adjournment.

Motion by Fendrick, second by Beheler to adjourn. Motion carried. 8:06 p.m.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

May 23, 2023

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 3.b

Village Ethics Policy

BACKGROUND

The Village ethics policy is included in your packet. Each year the Village Board and its committees will have this item as a reminder of expected behavior of Trustees and citizen committee members. Additionally, a committee member asked for some information on communications and walking quorums; I also included some information on those items from the Village Board orientation packet.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

1. Approved Code of Ethics
2. Open Meeting Laws and Public Records

Ethics Code

1. Statement of Purpose.

- (a) The proper operation of democratic government requires that public officials and employees be independent, impartial and responsible to the people; that government decisions and policy be made in proper channels of the governmental structure; that public office not be used for personal gain; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government. In recognition of these goals, there is hereby established in this Code of Ethics for all Village of Mount Horeb officials and employees, whether elected or appointed, paid or unpaid, including members of boards, committees and commissions of the Village, as well as any individuals who are candidates for elective office as soon as such individuals file nomination papers with the Village.
- (b) The purpose of this Ethics Code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all such officials and employees by setting forth those acts or actions that are incompatible with the best interests of the Village of Mount Horeb and by directing disclosure by such officials and employees of private financial or other interests in matters affecting the Village. The Village Board believes that a Code of Ethics for the guidance of elected and appointed officials and employees will help them avoid conflicts between their personal interests and their public responsibilities, will improve standards of public service and will promote and strengthen the faith and confidence of the citizens of this Village in their elected and appointed officials and employees. The Village Board hereby reaffirms that each elected and appointed Village official and employee holds his or her position as a public trust, and any intentional effort to realize substantial personal gain through official conduct is a violation of that trust. The provisions and purpose of this Ethics Code and such rules and regulations as may be established are hereby declared to be in the best interests of the Village of Mount Horeb.

2. Definitions.

The following definitions shall be applicable in this Chapter:

- (a) **Public Official.** Those persons serving in statutory elected or appointed offices provided for in Chapter 62 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and all members appointed to boards, committees and commissions established or appointed by the Village President and/or Village Board pursuant to this Code of Ordinances, whether paid or unpaid.
- (b) **Public Employee.** Any person excluded from the definition of a public official who is employed by the Village.
- (c) **Anything of Value.** Any gift, favor, loan, service or promise of future employment, but does not include reasonable fees and honorariums, or the exchange of seasonal, anniversary or customary gifts among relatives and friends.
- (d) **Business.** Means any corporation, partnership, proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, self-employed individual or any other legal entity which engages in profit-making activities.
- (e) **Personal Interest.** The following specific blood or marriage relationships:
 - (1) A person's spouse, mother, father, child, brother or sister; or
 - (2) A person's relative by blood or marriage who receives, directly or indirectly, more than one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) support from such person or from whom such person receives, directly or indirectly, more than one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of his support.
- (f) **Significant Interest.** Owning or controlling, directly or indirectly, at least ten percent (10%) or Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) of the outstanding stock of at least ten percent (10%) or Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) of any business.

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- (g) **Financial Interest.** Any interest which shall yield, directly or indirectly, a monetary or other material benefit to the officer or employee or to any person employing or retaining the services of the officer or employee.
 - (h) **Staff.** Any full- or part-time employee of the Village.

3. Statutory Standards of Conduct.

There are certain provisions of the Wisconsin Statutes which should, while not set forth herein, be considered an integral part of any Code of Ethics. Accordingly, the provisions of the following sections of the Wisconsin Statutes, as from time to time amended, are made a part of this Code of Ethics and shall apply to public officials and employees whenever applicable, to wit:

- (a) **Sec. 19.59.** State Ethics Law.
- (b) **Sec. 946.10.** Bribery of Public Officers and Employees.
- (c) **Sec. 946.11.** Special Privileges from Public Utilities.
- (d) **Sec. 946.12.** Misconduct in Public Office.
- (e) **Sec. 946.13.** Private Interest in Public Contract Prohibited.

4. Responsibility of Public Office.

Public officials and employees are agents of public purpose and hold office for the benefit of the public. They are bound to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State and carry out impartially the laws of the nation, state and municipality, to observe in their official acts the highest standards of morality and to discharge faithfully the duties of their office regardless of personal considerations, recognizing that the public interest must be their prime concern. Their conduct in both their official and private affairs should be above reproach so as to foster respect for government.

5. Dedicated Service.

- (a) Officials and employees should adhere to the rules of work and performance established as the standard for their positions by the appropriate authority.
- (b) Officials and employees should not exceed their authority or breach the law or ask others to do so, and they should work in full cooperation with other public officials and employees unless prohibited from so doing by law or by officially recognized confidentiality of their work.
- (c) Members of the Village staff are expected to follow their appropriate professional code of ethics. Staff members shall file a copy of such professional ethics codes with the Village Clerk. The Village Clerk may notify the appropriate professional ethics board of any ethics violations involving Village employees covered by such professional standards.

6. Fair and Equal Treatment.

- (a) **Use of Public Property.** No official or employee shall use or permit the unauthorized use of Village-owned vehicles, equipment, materials or property for personal convenience or profit, except when such services are available to the public generally or are provided as Village policy for the use of such official or employee in the conduct of official business, as authorized by the Village Board or authorized board, commission or committee.
- (b) **Use of Village Stationery.** No official or employee shall use, or permit the unauthorized use of, Village stationery for personal use.

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- (c) **Obligations to Citizens.** No official or employee shall grant any special consideration, treatment or advantage to any citizen beyond that which is available to every other citizen. No official or employee shall use or attempt to use his or her position with the Village to secure any advantage, preference or gain, over and above his rightful remuneration and benefits, for himself or for a member of his or her immediate family.
 - (d) **Political Contributions.** No official shall personally solicit from any Village employee, other than an elected official, a contribution to a political campaign committee for which the person subject to this Chapter is a candidate or treasurer.

7. Conflict of Interest.

(a) Financial and Personal Interest Prohibited.

- (1) No official or employee of the Village, whether paid or unpaid, shall engage in any business or transaction or shall act in regard to financial or other personal interest, direct or indirect, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties in the public interest contrary to the provisions of this Chapter or which would tend to impair independence of judgment or action in the performance of official duties.
- (2) Any member of the Village Board who has a financial interest or personal interest in any proposed legislation before the Village Board shall disclose on the records of the Village Board the nature and extent of such interest; such official shall not participate in debate or vote for adoption or defeat of such legislation.
- (3) Any non-elected official who has a financial interest or personal interest in any proposed legislative action of the Village Board or any board, commission or committee upon which the official has any influence or input or of which the official is a member that is to make a recommendation or decision upon any item which is the subject of the proposed legislative action shall disclose on the records of the Village Board or the appropriate board, commission or committee the nature and extent of such interest. Such official shall not participate in debate or discussion or vote for adoption or defeat of such legislation.
- (4) Any Village employee who has a financial interest or personal interest in any proposed legislative action of the Village Board or any board, commission or committee upon which the employee has any influence of input, or of which the employee is a member, that is a make to recommendation or decision upon any item which is the subject of the proposed legislative action shall disclose on the records of the Village Board or the appropriate board, commission or committee the nature and extent of such interest.

- (b) **Disclosure of Confidential Information.** No official or employee shall, without proper legal authorization, disclose confidential information concerning the property, government or affairs of the Village, nor shall such information be used to advance the financial or other private interests of the official or employee or others.

(c) Gifts and Favors.

- (1) No official or employee, personally or through a member of his immediate family, may solicit or accept, either directly or indirectly, from any person or organization, money or anything of value if it could be expected to influence the employee's official actions or judgments or be considered a reward for any action or inaction on the part of the official or employee.
- (2) No official or employee personally, or through a member of his immediate family, shall accept any gift, whether in the form of money, service, loan, thing or promise, from any person which could reasonably be expected to impair his independence of judgment or action in the performance of his duties or grant in the discharge of his duties any improper favor, service or thing of value. However, it is not a conflict of interest for any public official or employee to receive hospitality that is unsolicited and unrelated to government business, such as a meal, and that is not intended to influence the official.

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- (3) An official or employee is not to accept hospitality if, after consideration of the surrounding circumstances, it could reasonably be concluded that such hospitality would not be extended were it not for the fact that the guest, or a member of the guest's immediate family, was a Village official or employee. Participation in celebrations, grand openings, open houses, informational meetings and similar events are excluded from this prohibition. This paragraph further shall not be construed to prevent candidates for elective office from accepting hospitality, as a properly reported political contribution, from citizens for the purpose of supporting the candidate's campaign. (The State Ethics Board has interpreted "hospitality" as it applies to state officials as including meals, beverages and lodging which a person offers at his residence and would have been offered if the recipient was not an official).
 - (4) Gifts received by an official or employee or his immediate family under unusual circumstances shall be referred to the Village Board within ten (10) days of receipt for recommended disposition. Any person subject to this Chapter who becomes aware that he is or has been offered any gift, the acceptance of which would constitute a violation of this Subsection, shall, within ten (10) days, disclose the details surrounding said offer to the Village Board. Failure to comply with this reporting requirement shall constitute an offense under this Chapter.
- (d) **Representing Private Interests Before Village Agencies or Courts.**
- (1) Non-elected Village officials and employees shall not appear on behalf of any private person (other than him or herself, his or her spouse or minor children) before any Village agency, board, commission or the Village Board if the official or employee or any board, commission or committee of which the official or employee is a member has any jurisdiction, discretion or control over the matter which is the subject of such representation.
 - (2) Elected Village officials may appear before Village agencies on behalf of constituents in the course of their duties as representatives of the electorate or in the performance of public or civic obligations. However, the disclosure requirements of Subsection (a) above shall be applicable to such appearances.
- (e) **Ad Hoc Committee Exceptions.** No violation of the conflict-of-interest restrictions of this Section shall exist, however, where an individual serves on a special ad hoc committee charged with the narrow responsibility of addressing a specific issue or topic in which that individual, or the employer or a client of that individual, has an interest so long as the individual discloses to the Village Board that such interest exists.
- (f) **Contracts with the Village.** No Village official or employee who, in their capacity as such officer or employee, participates in the making of a contract in which he has a private pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, or performs in regard to that contract with some function requiring the exercise of discretion on his part shall enter into any contract with the Village unless, within the confines of Sec. 946.13, Wis. Stats.:
- (1) The contract is awarded through a process of public notice and competitive bidding or the Village Board waives the requirement of this Section after determining that it is in the best interest of the Village to do so.
 - (2) The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to the designation of a public depository of public funds.

8. Advisory Opinions.

When an official or employee has doubt as to the applicability of a provision of this Ethics Code to a particular situation or definition of terms used in this Chapter, he should apply to the Village Administrator for an advisory opinion from the Village Attorney and will be guided by that opinion when given. The official or employee shall have the opportunity to present his interpretation of the facts at issue and of the applicability provisions of this Chapter before such advisory decision is made. This Chapter shall be operative in all instances covered by its provisions except when superseded by an applicable statutory provision and statutory action is mandatory, or when the application of a statutory provision is discretionary, but determined by the Village Attorney to be more

appropriate or desirable. Advisory requests and opinions shall be kept confidential, except when disclosure is authorized by the requestor, in which case the request and opinion may be made public.

9. Hiring Relatives.

- (a) This Section governs the proposed hiring of individuals for full-time or part-time work as Village employees who are members of the immediate family of Village employees or elected officials. "Immediate family" includes those relatives by blood or marriage defined in Section 2(e) as personal interests.
- (b) Hiring an immediate family member of any current Village employee or elected Village official will be considered only if that individual has the knowledge and skills, experience or other job-related qualifications that warrant consideration for the position. A person cannot be hired for either full-time or part-time employment in a position immediately supervised by a member of that person's immediate family.
- (c) This Section does not apply to non-elected officials who are asked to accept appointment as members of a Village Board, commission or committee; non-elected officials, however, will be expected to disqualify themselves from participation in matters under consideration which may affect the hiring, retention, classification or compensation of their immediate family if currently employed or being considered for employment by the Village.

10. Employees Covered by Collective Bargaining Agreements.

In the event an employee, covered under a collective bargaining agreement, is allegedly involved in an Ethics Code violation, the terms and conditions set forth in the applicable collective bargaining agreement shall prevail in the administration and interpretation of this Ethics Code Chapter.

11. Employee Protection.

No appointing authority, agent of an appointing authority or supervisor may initiate or administer, or threaten to initiate or administer, any retaliatory action against a Village employee following an employee's disclosure of information related to the violation of any federal or state law, rule or regulation, the mismanagement or abuse of authority, a substantial waste of public funds, or a danger to public health and safety. Nothing in this Section restricts the right of the Village as an employer to take appropriate disciplinary action against an employee who knowingly makes an untrue statement or discloses information, the disclosure of which is specifically prohibited by federal or state law, rule or regulation.

Open Meeting Laws and Public Records

All Village meetings are subject to Wisconsin's Open Meeting Law. Meetings between any quorum of any Board or any Committee must be posted to avoid violating the open meeting law. Virtually all records associated with Village business are public. Minutes to all Village meetings are maintained at the Village office. All official acts, including ordinances and resolutions are kept on file at the Village office.

Walking Quorums and Email

A growing and complex issue with the information age is walking quorums, emails and social media. A walking quorum is where two or more trustees would trade phone calls, emails or even face to face discussions outside of an open meeting. While there may not be a quorum of the Board present for the discussion, if one Trustee discusses their conversations with another, the number needed for a quorum could be reached. For example, if two trustees are carrying out a conversation over email on an issue and trustee A would state which way they were considering voting and Trustee B would forward this to Trustee C, whom was not involved in the original conversation you have already reached a quorum for a committee and could be perceived as having enough trustees involved to influence a vote at the Board level. Walking quorums are illegal under the open records laws and should be avoided. Additionally, multiple trustees need to avoid posting about Village business on the same social media post.

The best way to avoid walking quorums is to *only conduct business during officially posted meetings* and never hit reply to all on emails sent to the Board. It is important to remember that as a Board member, your emails are subject to the Open Records Law which means any member of the public could request to receive a copy of the emails you sent or received pertaining to a particular subject or within a specific time period. You will be set up with a Village email for conducting Village business.



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May 24, 2023

In December of 2022, the Village of Mount Horeb created a new municipal committee, tasked with helping to implement a sustainable economic and ecologic trajectory for our village. The Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee identified an increased investment in renewable energy production as a major factor in reducing of the village's carbon footprint. An energy audit indicates that the village is already making good progress, with 90 solar installations to date.

On May 2, 2023, the Village Board of the Village of Mount Horeb unanimously voted to make a commitment to become a SolSmart designated community. In partnership with SolSmart and other regional municipalities, Mount Horeb looks forward to the further advancement of solar technology in our village. With dedicated village committee and staff help, and coordinating with SolSmart's guidance, we will work to improve conditions that make installations it faster, easier, and more affordable for village residents and businesses. These efforts will serve to increase the efficiency of local processes related to solar development, which may save our municipal government time and money.

The Village of Mount Horeb will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals.

- ❖ Develop and implement streamline process for solar permitting and inspections in the Village of Mount Horeb.
- ❖ Promote and advocate for solar installations for residential and commercial properties by communicating favorable finance options available.
- ❖ Develop and execute a solarization campaign for municipal, commercial, non-profit, and residential installations.

These efforts demonstrate that our community is committed to driving continual improvement in our solar market, and in the process of doing so, all the related areas identified as community priorities in our relevant plans or initiatives.

To measure progress along the way, Mount Horeb will continue to track key metrics related to solar energy deployment, such as installed solar capacity and the number of installations across sectors.

Inquiries related to Mount Horeb's Sol Smart participation can be directed to Village administrator, Nicholas Owen, Nic.Owen@mounthorebwi.info, Phone: [608-437-9409](tel:608-437-9409),

Sincerely,

Nicholas Owen
Village Administrator
608-437-9409



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
May 23, 2023	

AGENDA ITEM # 3.d

Consider Ad Hoc Committee for SolSmart Certification

BACKGROUND

Chair White would like to create an ad hoc committee of two SNR members to assist with preparation of material for the SolSmart certification.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
May 23, 2023	
AGENDA ITEM # 3.e	
Discussion Committee Youtube Channel, possible social media page	
BACKGROUND	
RECOMMENDATION	
ATTACHMENTS	
None	

RESIDENTS INVITED TO TOUR LOCAL GARDEN AND HELP OUT AT STEWART PARK

he Mt Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee, in partnership with local experts and volunteers, will offer ongoing free public events throughout our community to increase public understanding of permaculture gardening and other activities to improve the natural landscape that surrounds us.

The Friends of Stewart Park will host regular Work and Learn events on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through the month of June, beginning June 6 and 7 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Tuesday work will stretch throughout the park and may include landscape work with power tools. Tuesday crews will meet at the end of Blueview Drive in June. Wednesday work will be in one of several pollinator gardens within the park and Wednesday crews will begin by meeting at the shelter in June.

Each week participants will have the opportunity to learn how the work is connected to rebuilding a healthy ecosystem within our park and how the Dane County Parks and Natural Areas contribute to improving the land and water throughout Dane County. The Friends of Stewart Park and the Mount Horeb Natural Resources and Sustainability Committee will host local experts in permaculture gardening, birding, and natural resources in these weekly Work and Learn events. Evening and weekend events will be added within the Park as interests and opportunities emerge throughout the summer. The Friends of Stewart Park also hosts a third Sunday work day, which will be on June 18. Interested volunteers will meet at the Stewart Park shelter at 1:00 pm. Please contact Friends of Stewart Park President Mary McDonough-Sutter at mcsutter@mhtc.net or find Friends of Stewart Park on Facebook for more details.

In addition to the Stewart Park events, free tours of a local Mount Horeb permaculture-influenced edible landscape will also be offered by Rachel Belida, owner of Daily Harvest

Designs <https://www.dailyharvestdesigns.com/>. Tours will consist of 8-10 people who will discover simple but effective stormwater management systems, edible and medicinal plants, creative garden design solutions, gathering spaces, play areas, chickens, a unique blend of function and beauty, and more! Tours will be on Tuesday, June 13 at 6pm; Thursday, June 15 at 6:00pm; and Saturday, June 24 at 10am. Please register on the Daily Harvest Designs website for a specific tour date and time. <https://www.dailyharvestdesigns.com/experiences>.

Sustainability Notes from the Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee

Written by Kerry Beheler

The growing season is here! Flower blooms burst with color and shades of green cover the landscape as warmth, rain, and longer daylight surrounds us. Does this burgeoning life encourage you to create beauty and habitat for native pollinators?

The Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee analyzed results of the public surveys that citizens filled out at the April 4 elections. Perhaps you completed one of these voluntary surveys! We found that two of the top responses for future programming were how to provide native pollinator habitat and interest in permaculture gardening.

What better way to welcome the growing season in our community than participating in hands-on education and planting projects! Rather than indoor lectures, the Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee is partnering with local experts and volunteers to offer free hands-on public events to increase understanding of permaculture gardening, native plantings, and other activities that improve our natural landscape.

The Friends of Stewart Park and the Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee will host local experts in permaculture gardening, birding, and natural resources during weekly Work and Learn events. Mount Horeb folks can learn how habitat restoration work is rebuilding a healthy ecosystem within Stewart Park, and how the Dane County Parks and Natural Areas contribute to improving the land and water throughout Dane County.

The Friends of Stewart Park will host these Work and Learn events on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through the month of June, beginning June 6 and 7, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Tuesday work will stretch throughout the Park and may include landscape work with power tools. Tuesday crews will meet at the end of Blueview Drive. Wednesday work will be in one of several pollinator gardens within the Park. Wednesday crews will begin by meeting at the Park shelter.

The Friends of Stewart Park also hosts a third Sunday work day, which will be on June 18. Interested volunteers will meet at the Park shelter at 1:00 pm. Please contact Friends of Stewart Park President Mary McDonough-Sutter at mcsutter@mhtc.net or find Friends of Stewart Park on Facebook for more details.

In addition to the Stewart Park events, free tours of a local Mount Horeb permaculture-influenced edible landscape will be offered by Rachel Belida, owner of Daily Harvest Designs <https://www.dailyharvestdesigns.com/>. Tours of 8-10 people will learn about the unique blend of function and beauty that are permaculture gardens. Topics will include simple and effective stormwater management systems, edible and medicinal plants, creative garden designs, how to create gathering spaces and play areas, chickens, and more! Tours will be on Tuesday, June 13 at 6pm; Thursday, June 15 at 6:00pm; and

Saturday, June 24 at 10am. Please register on the Daily Harvest Designs website for a specific tour date and time. <https://www.dailyharvestdesigns.com/experiences>.

Native plant pollinator gardens create healthy, colorful, and visually appealing areas. Creating and maintaining these essential areas can be done by ourselves, our schools, faith-based organizations, our Village government, and citizen and business property owners. Evening and weekend community Work and Learn events will be added to the Stewart Park list as interests and opportunities emerge throughout the summer. Free community Work and Learn native pollinator planting events and tours will be held by the Xerces Society and other organizations at local schools, educational farms, and other community areas during the summer. Stay tuned for announcements about these events later in the summer!

Mount Horeb can join with other local, state, and national communities and organizations who are concerned about, and take actions, to help our pollinators and create healthy lawns and garden spaces. The Mount Horeb Village Board will be considering a municipal ordinance that allows residents to grow and maintain native plant pollinator gardens at their Wednesday June 7 meeting at 7pm. This ordinance will promote natural landscaping and the use of native plants, while emphasizing the need to limit uncontrolled plant growth. It would give clear definitions of what constitutes planned natural landscapes, and would not allow plants on the State of Wisconsin noxious plant lists to be grown. If you are interested in sharing your views, please contact the Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee or the Village Board. Happy Growing Season!

(author photo Monarch caterpillar feeding on native butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), front yard photo).



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

May 23, 2023

PREPARED BY**AGENDA ITEM # 4.b**

Discussion/Consideration: SNR Mount Horeb Mail Column

BACKGROUND**RECOMMENDATION****ATTACHMENTS**

None



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

May 23, 2023

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 5.a

Presentation and Discussion: Final SNR Survey Results

BACKGROUND

The final survey results have been compiled! The committee will review the results as well as a potential article for the paper sharing the results.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

1. MH SNR survey April 2023 Draft

Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee

Village Survey April 2023





Survey Background

- Paper survey offered at voting polls April 4, 2023
- 934 respondents. 3211 villagers voted in the election, over a quarter of them filled out surveys.
- 10 volunteers offered the survey for 26 poll hours
- One page with 8 questions created used to gauge opinions from a diverse group of Mount Horeb Residents.
- Results were tabulated, and the results presented in this Power Point presentation.

Survey Result Highlights

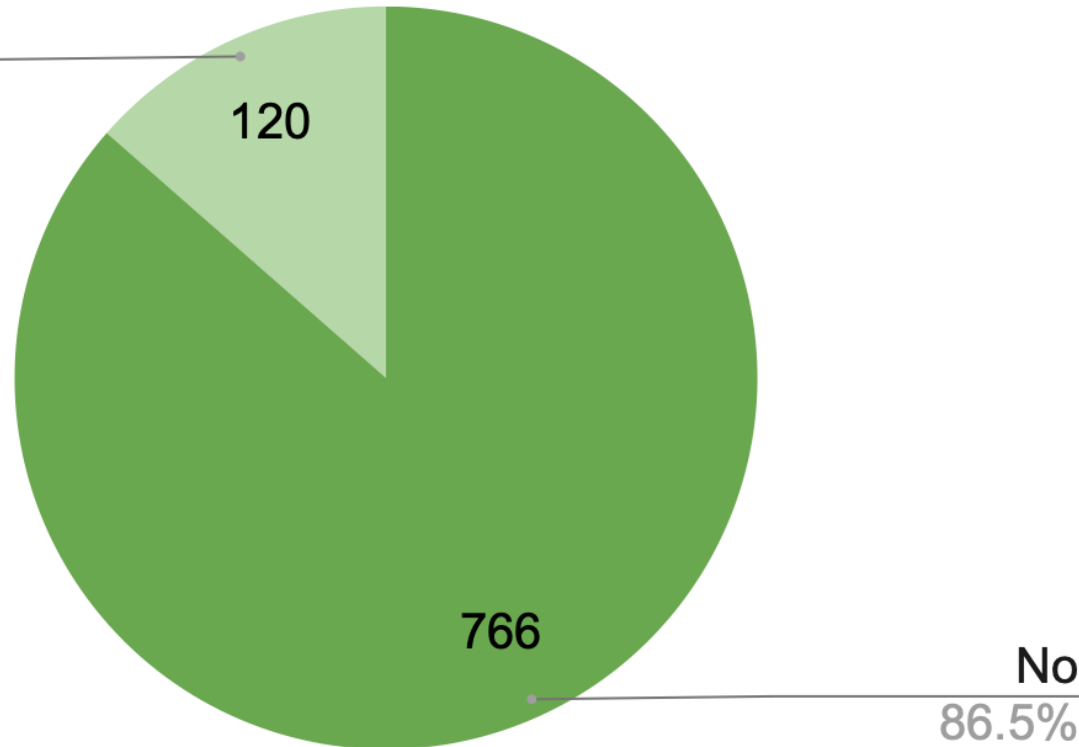
- Awareness Of Committee
- Effective Promotional Sources
- Enthusiasm For Municipal Sustainable Actions
- Programming Interests
- Favorable Business practices
- Local Government's Roll in Promotion of Sustainable Practices.

Were you aware of SNR Committee?

Awareness of SNR Committee

Yes

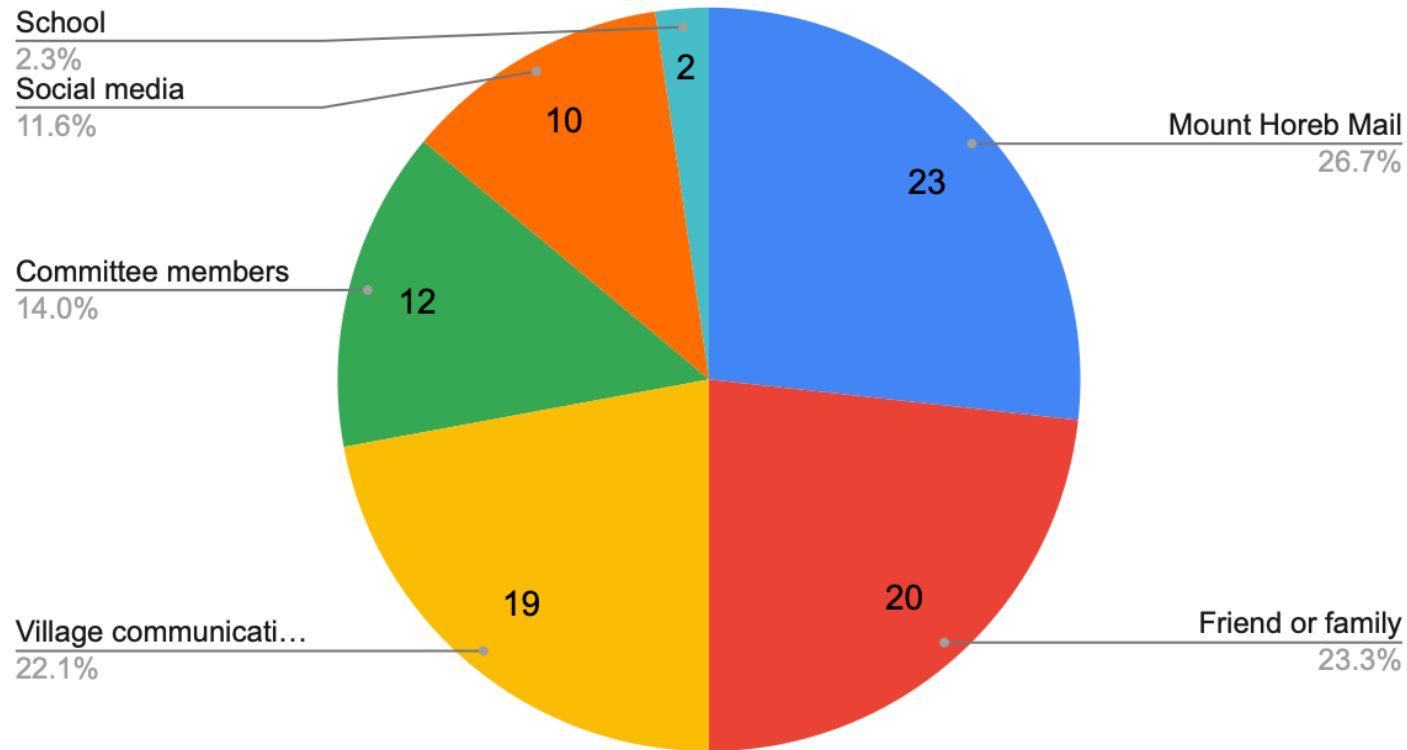
13.5%



The survey itself raised awareness of SNR Committee to great extent. The act of filling out the survey changed the awareness factor to 100%.

Where did you hear about the SNR Committee?

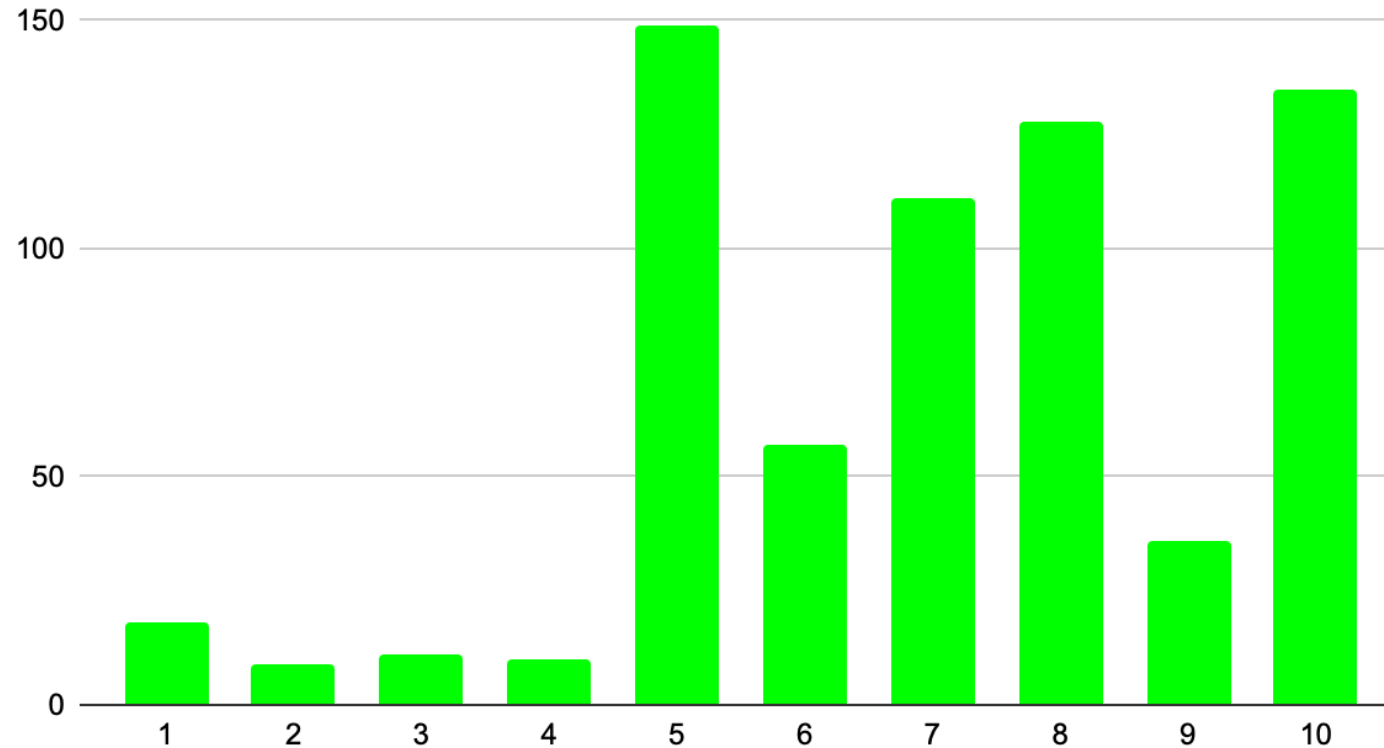
Heard about SNR committee from



Of those who filled out the survey, Newspaper, village communications, and word of mouth all effective.

How excited are you about the SNR Committee (10 most excited)?

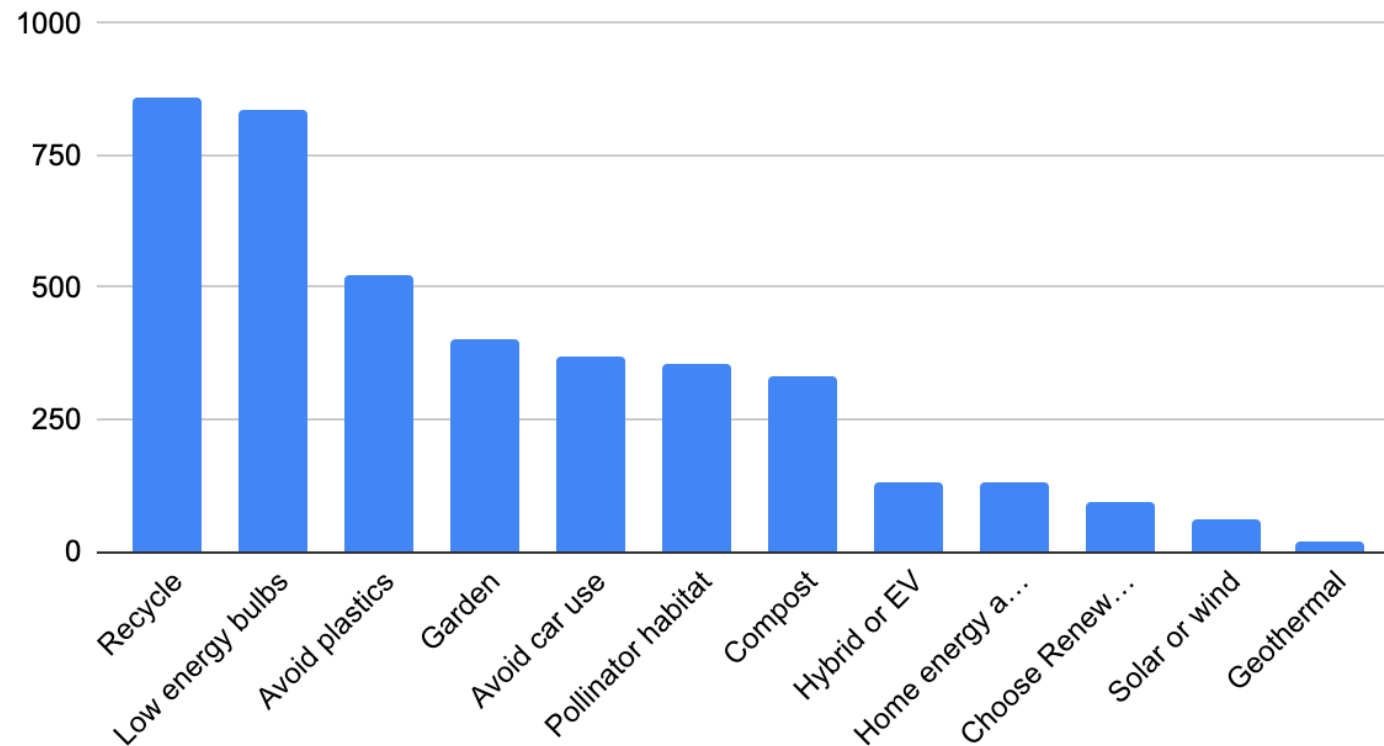
Excitement about SNR Committee



Average and median excitement level 7.

Which sustainability practices do you do regularly?

Reported Sustainability Practices

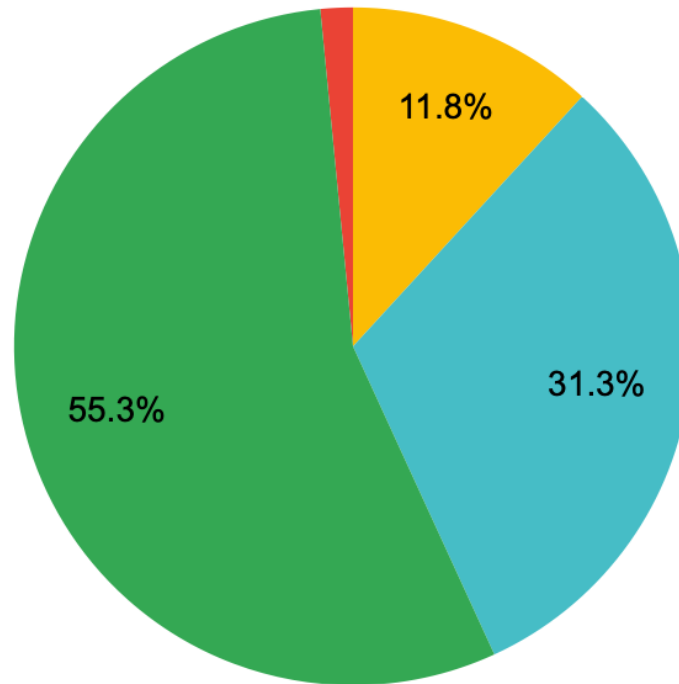


Low-cost residential practices were most prevalent.

The result of these results indicate there is lots of opportunity for education and incentivization.

Which statement about sustainability applies to you?

Personal attitude towards sustainability



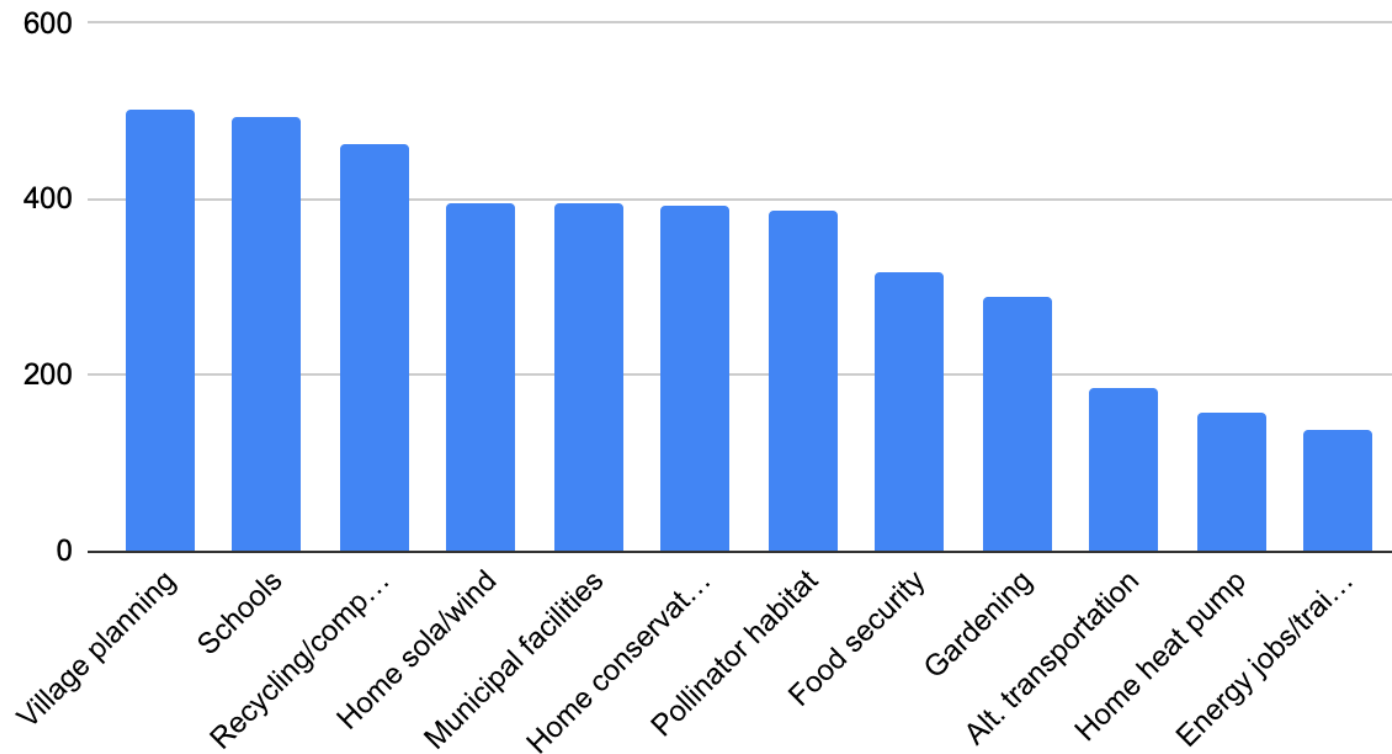
● If not too much trouble ● If not too expensive ● Care deeply ● Not a priority

Sustainability is important for almost all respondents.

Respondents act sustainably if not too expensive nor too difficult.

Which sustainability topics are of interest for programming?

Topics for Sustainability Programming

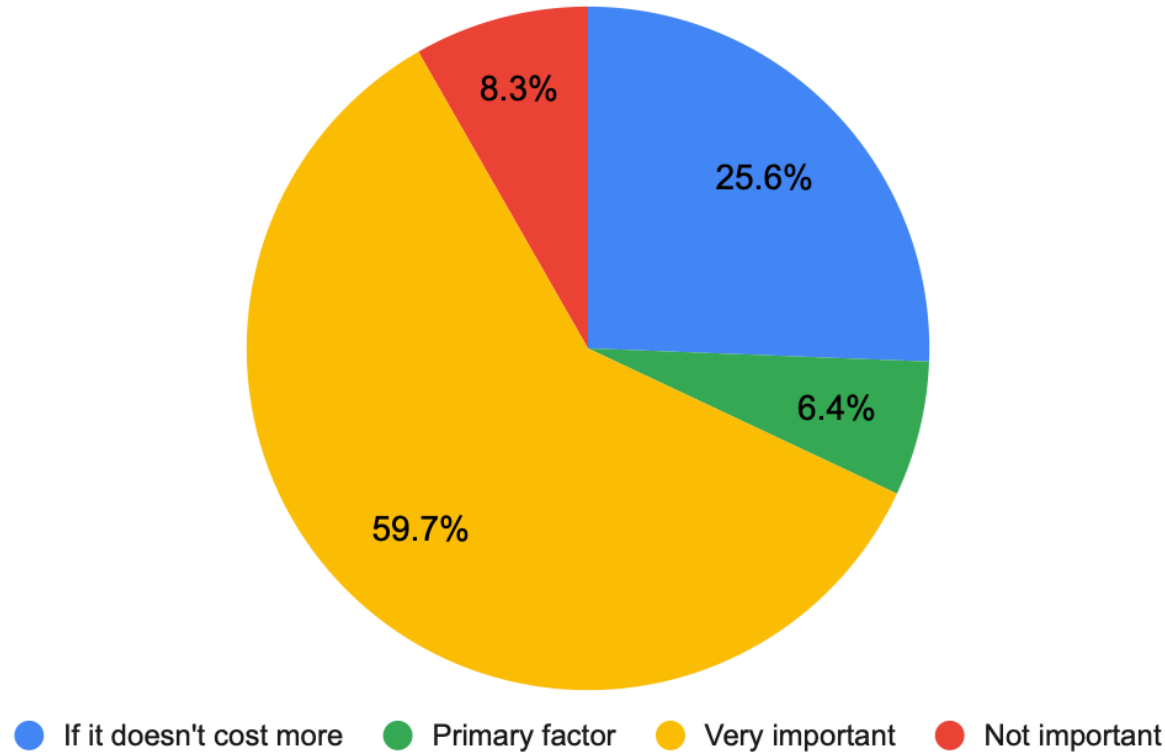


Most respondents recorded interest in multiple programming subjects.

Could group topics – residential related, village related, landscape related, etc.

Do you support businesses based on sustainability?

Sustainability and business support



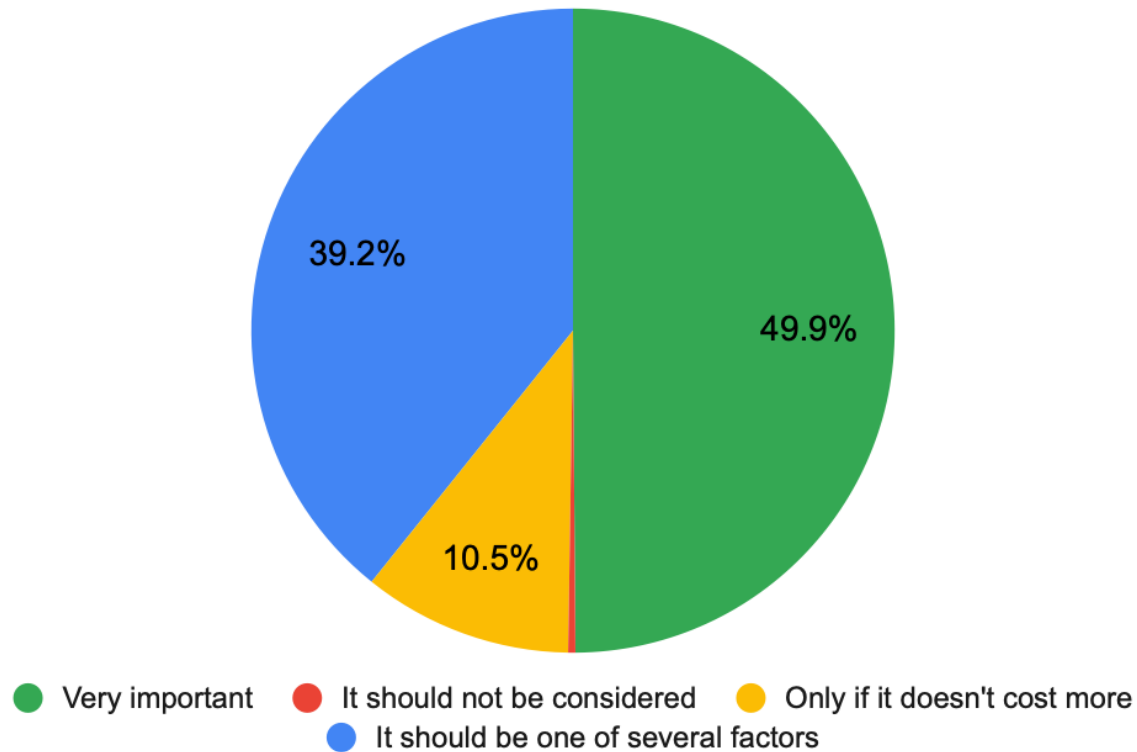
Results offer useful information for local businesses.

Sixty-six percent percent noted that sustainability is a major consideration for consumers.

A quarter of respondents cited economics as driving force for their preference.

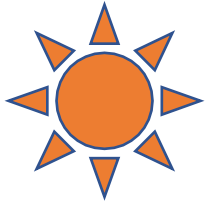
Is it important for village government to promote sustainability?

Sustainability and Local Government Operations



Almost all respondents feel it is important to promote sustainable practices.

Price/cost and other factors are also important



Conclusions and Opportunities

- The number of surveys collected from a diverse group of villagers was useful to gauge public interest in sustainable actions in Mount Horeb.
- The results showed overwhelming support for inclusion of sustainable best practices in municipal practices.
- The results also demonstrated an interest in a wide range of educational public programming.
- Many respondents suggested that economic considerations should be considered when addressing any sustainable initiatives.

NOTE TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS: I DID THE BEST I COULD WITH THIS, BUT I PERSONALLY FIND IT A BIT BORING FOR THE AVERAGE READER. I'M NO LONGER SURE THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE A GOOD TOPIC. IF THEY ARE, IT WOULD BE SO MUCH MORE ENGAGING TO INCLUDE SOME GRAPHS AND CHARTS. SO I AM TOTALLY OPEN TO YOUR IDEAS OF BETTER ORGANIZATION, REWRITING, SCRAPPING, WHATEVER. THANKS!

Mt. Horeb SNR Committee Column

Jennifer Gottwald

Survey results April 2023

Since the Mt. Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources (SNR) Committee was formed in early 2023, we were able to take advantage of the spring election to informally survey all of you about your opinions on sustainability. We wanted to know what sustainability practices you already engage in, and what you'd like to learn more about. Volunteers were present at both polling sites to offer surveys to voters. We got an amazing response – over 900 of you shared your opinions with us. We thank you for this

The first thing we learned is that most of you had not heard about the SNR Committee. Only 14% of respondents were aware of us. For those who had heard the news, approximately equal numbers had learned through the *Mt. Horeb Mail*, friends or family, or village communications. Some others heard through committee members or social media. We were gratified to learn that whether or not the respondents first learned of the SNR Committee through the survey or otherwise, they were excited about the new committee.

55% of respondents care deeply about sustainability. A further 44% reported that they act sustainably if it's not too expensive nor too inconvenient. A small number of respondents reported that sustainability was not a priority to them. As the SNR Committee, we are of course heartened by these results. We also understand that we sometimes need to juggle conflicting priorities in our lives. One thing we would like to do as a committee is to make it easier for all of us to act sustainably.

In order to figure out how we can help village residents act more sustainably, we asked what village residents are already doing in their homes to save energy and natural resources. Survey respondents indicated that in Mt Horeb we are good at using low energy light bulbs and separating our recyclables from landfill waste. A good number of us avoid using single use plastics, try to walk, bike, or carpool when we can, compost food and yard waste, and grow flowers for pollinators and food for ourselves (and some rabbits, of course.) And some of us have gone even further by driving electric or hybrid vehicles, utilizing solar, wind, or geothermal in our homes, supporting renewable energy through programs like Choose Renewable with Mt. Horeb Utilities, or doing home energy audits. Well done, Mt. Horeb! We're on our way toward sustainability, and we know there is more that we can do.

We also asked what the SNR Committee can provide for programming to help in that effort. What do we want to learn more about and to discuss together? First off, we in Mt. Horeb are interested in how we can incorporate sustainability into village planning and our schools. Next, we'd like to learn from each other how to better compost and recycle, how to make our municipal facilities more sustainable, how to provide pollinator habitat, how to conserve energy in our homes, and how to explore residential solar and wind energy. Some of us also want to explore both permaculture gardening and food security. And there also in interest in geothermal heating and cooling, training in energy jobs, and alternative transportation, which can be a challenge in a community like Mt. Horeb.

Finally, we asked how important sustainability practices are for businesses you support as well as your village operations. Only about 8% of respondents said that sustainability played no role in how they choose businesses where they spend their money, with the rest at least considering sustainability, again balancing that consideration with price and value. For our village operations, while we want our elected representatives to be careful with our municipal budget, but fewer than 1% of respondents preferred that the village not consider sustainability.

Do you see opinions there that reflect yours, or do you feel that the survey results don't capture your views? We want to hear from you. Please do reach out to the SNR committee members to share your thoughts. We have our ideas and our experiences, and we want to take everyone's voice into account as we work with all of you to shape our community through residential, business, and municipal actions.