



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, June 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Municipal Building Board Room

138 E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Agenda Items
 - a. Consideration of May 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Update/Discussion: SolSmart Initiative
 - c. Report on June outdoor Work and Learn Partnership Events
 - d. Discussion/Consideration of Landscaping Request from Mount Horeb Children's Community School
 - e. Discussion on future publicity and news column
 - f. Discussion and Consideration of programing: Solar 101
 - g. Future Agenda Items
- 3) Meeting adjournment.

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AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

June 27, 2023

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 2.a

Consideration of May 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

1. SNR Minutes 052323



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SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Call to order
 - a. Roll Call

Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: White, Beheler, Grabe, Saltes, Butosov, Gottwald and Fendrick. Gauger was absent. Administrator Owen was also present.
- 2) Public Comment on Non Agenda Items

Rachel Belida spoke in favor of a partnership between the SNR committee and the newly constructed Children's Community School to finish the landscaping with native plantings. Belida asked for assistance from the SNR committee with identifying or obtaining grants or a work day for finishing the landscaping.
- 3) Agenda Items
 - a. Consideration of April 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Gottwald to approve the April 25th meeting minutes, second by Beheler. Motion carried.
 - b. Village Ethics Policy

Chair White explained the Village would like all committees to review the ethics policy annually. Administrator Owen provided some highlights on the document and on walking quorums.
 - c. Approval of SolSmart Letter of Intent

Motion by Butosov to recommend approval, second by Gottwald. Motion carried.
 - d. Consider Ad Hoc Committee for SolSmart Certification

Butosov and White volunteered to serve on an adhoc committee to work on the Solsmart designation.
 - e. Discussion Committee Youtube Channel, possible social media page

White explained he had to create a youtube channel to share the video from the joint event with Sustain Dane because it was not compatible with the format used on Trollway TV. Future events will be recorded by Trollway Tv. Rather than creating a new social media account, the SNR Committee will share content and information using the Village and

Chamber social media accounts. Grabe and Fendrick volunteered to work on social media content.

4) Pollinator Garden

a. Discussion: Pollinator Garden Tour and Stewart Park Project Programming

Member Saltes informed the group that he was a member of the Friends of Steward Lake Park Board and a volunteer as well. Beheler gave a background on the projects. Providing educational programs was one of the top items identified in the SNR survey. Both events are free to the public, registration is requested for the garden tour to control numbers.

b. Discussion/Consideration: SNR Mount Horeb Mail Column

The committee reviewed the draft column and suggested minor edits. Motion by Gottwald, second by Fendrick, to approve the column with edits. Motion carried.

c. Update: Pollinator/Natural Garden Ordinance

Administrator Owen informed the committee that he is continuing to work on review of the pollinator ordinance with the Village Attorney. They will also be reviewing the proposed garden ordinance in conjunction with the pollinator ordinance to ensure consistency.

5) SNR Survey Results

a. Presentation and Discussion: Final SNR Survey Results

Gottwald presented a powerpoint with the final survey results. The committee thanked Gottwald for her work and suggested the data be presented to local service groups to get the word out about the survey results.

b. Discussion/Approval: Article on Survey Results

The committee reviewed the letter and suggested minor edits. Motion by Saltes, second by Beheler to approve the column with edits. Motion carried.

6) Discussion: Future Agenda Items

Future items include: Discussion on Partnership with CCS, pollinator and garden ordinances, social media ad hoc committee report, update on any presentations made to service groups.

7) Meeting adjournment.

Motion by Butosov to adjourn, second by Gottwald. Motion carried at 8:08



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

June 27, 2023

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 2.b

Update/Discussion: SolSmart Initiative

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

A link to the CARPC SolSmart webinar was sent out earlier this week. Chair White will continue the discussion on the SolSmart program at this meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. SolSmart LOI

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, Nic Owen, Nic.Owen@mounthorebwi.info, Phone: [608-437-9409](tel:608-437-9409), Fax: 608-437-3190.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Owen

Nicholas W. Owen
Village Administrator



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
June 27, 2023	

AGENDA ITEM # 2.c

Report on June outdoor Work and Learn Partnership Events

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

June 27, 2023

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 2.d

Discussion/Consideration of Landscaping Request from Mount Horeb Children's Community School

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

1. SNR_Meeting

Hello, my name is Rachel Belida. I am a Mount Horeb resident, living on N. Washington St. I am also a small business owner, mother, gardener, and edible landscape designer. My 9 year old daughter attended Children's Community School and my four year old daughter is currently a student there. I have been assisting with the two playground designs and sharing ideas for the remaining landscape space at CCS's new property at 1175 Cox Dr. in Mount Horeb.

I am here today to share an idea that stemmed from a conversation with Kerry about opportunities for the Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee to get involved in the exciting new plantings at Children's Community School.

I see the new CCS building, with it's focus on energy-efficiency, and the surrounding landscape, as a fantastic example of the community working together to make a dream a reality. CCS raised a significant amount of money for their new school and has also been gifted time, skills, and materials from local businesses, such as my own. Through all of this, they were able to create a special and unique educational space for CCS students.

So far, the CCS landscape plan includes 3 bio-retention ponds, two custom designed playgrounds, native plantings in the front of the building and leading into the playgrounds, several new shade trees, and a native prairie. A portion of this new landscape was or will be designed and planted by generous donations and volunteer help. However, there is still plenty of landscape space remaining.

This is where I think a collaboration between CCS and the SNR committee could benefit the community.

For the remaining landscape space at CCS, (north side near Springdale St, west slope that is currently lawn, and south edge that borders the toddler playground, plus a few other areas in between), it seems like the limiting factor is funding and volunteer help. I know that the teachers can't realistically take on anything outside of the fenced play areas and the hope is that the remaining lawn and currently unplanned spaces will eventually be turned into planting areas. There's a dream of an orchard, berry bushes, an outdoor stage, and more.

I see this as an opportunity for the Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee to get involved. Perhaps there is a grant or grants available (for CCS and/or SNR to apply for) that would help cover the funding piece, allowing for expansion of the current landscape design ideas, then installation and maintenance of the gardens via educational opportunities and volunteer work parties.

Some project ideas that come to mind are:

- plant an orchard using swales (these are ditches dug on the contour that slow and sink rain water into the landscape, which would greatly benefit the fruit trees while also reducing erosion and runoff)

- underplant the orchard with companion plants (these plants often double as food, herbs, pollinator plants, medicinal plants, and more)
- remove invasive species from the forested portion of the property
- plant native plants in the forested area
- create paths through the forested area that connect with the rest of the landscape
- construct a small stage with seating built into the hillside
- plant along the south edge of the toddler playground (south side of the building)
- plant a berry patch or two
- plant a native shrub and perennial garden at the top of the property (SW corner)
- plant a garden outside of the multi-purpose room (south side of building, door on the west end)
- fill in the north side of the property (between the preschool playground and Springdale St.) with native shrubs for visual interest and a privacy border

It's easy to imagine how all of these ideas would benefit Children's Community School. However, I think that the community would also benefit from becoming involved in the landscape projects at CCS.

Local gardening, landscaping, permaculture, native plant, and construction experts could lead educational events, in partnership with the Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee to install and maintain the garden areas and projects such as those I mentioned. This would provide meaningful work for local professionals and help meet the committee's goal to "establish educational and outreach programs to engage community residents, businesses, institutions, and other community stakeholders about sustainability issues and initiatives".

I've heard from some CCS parents that they would like to get involved in the new landscape by donating plants and/or helping to plant the new gardens. I have also heard from friends and clients that hands-on gardening experience is desired so that they can feel more confident planting and maintaining their home gardens.

Overall, I see that there is a trend toward environmentally friendly landscaping and growing food at homes, schools, and in commercial landscapes. The more properties that join in the movement to increase native plantings and grow food locally, the greater our collective impact will be.

One of my favorite quotes from Bill Mollison, one of the co-creators of permaculture is: "The greatest change we need to make is from consumption to production, even if on a small scale, in our own gardens. If only 10% of us do this, there is enough for everyone."

Since Children's Community School is in a highly visible location, they could easily become a demonstration garden for the community, with the partnership of the committee and educational programs hosted by local experts.

By increasing knowledge and hands-on experience of sustainable gardening techniques through educational and volunteer opportunities on the CCS property, I believe that local residents will find inspiration and confidence to make environmentally-friendly changes to their own gardens. Each new native or edible garden makes a difference.

Thank you for hearing and considering my idea to collaborate with Children's Community School for educational and outreach programs that engage community residents, businesses, institutions, and other community stakeholders so that we can continue creating a more sustainable place for all of us to thrive.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
June 27, 2023	
AGENDA ITEM # 2.e	
Discussion on future publicity and news column	
BACKGROUND	
RECOMMENDATION	
ATTACHMENTS	
None	



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
June 27, 2023	
AGENDA ITEM # 2.f	
Discussion and Consideration of programing: Solar 101	
BACKGROUND	
RECOMMENDATION	
ATTACHMENTS	
None	



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
June 27, 2023	
AGENDA ITEM # 2.g	
Future Agenda Items	
BACKGROUND	
RECOMMENDATION	
ATTACHMENTS	
None	