



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

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SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Call to order
Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: White, Beheler, Grabe, Saltes and Gottwald. Members absent: Gauger, Butusov and Fendrick. Also present: Administrator Owen.
- 2) Agenda Items
 - a. Consideration of November 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Motion by Saltes to approve the minutes as presented, second by Gottwald. Motion carried.
 - b. Presentation/Discussion: Solar 101 Program
White updated the group on the February 3rd event held at the Children's Community School (CCS). White announced there would be two additional speakers; Coulier Foundation and Solar for Schools, who both contributed to the CCS project. Sunn Café will be providing cakes and Brix Cider will be providing cookies. Gottwald will bring coffee urns. Beheler will provide plates, cups and napkins. Grabe will print stickers for cups and handouts with a QR code to direct people to the SNR page on the Village website. White is arranging the pick up of chairs for the event. The committee suggested adding an end time to the press release.
 - c. Discussion on Light Pollution
White provided a presentation on light pollution. The committee discussed the village code and ways to improve it. The committee felt the new LED streetlights in the Village were an improvement as they direct light to the street, but the color temperature could be less. The consensus of the committee was to focus on education for the public and businesses on dark sky standards and making sure the village code is consistent with dark sky standards when updated.
 - d. SNR Column Approval/Discussion
Due to the timing of the upcoming event, Beheler submitted a column on Solar 101 prior to the meeting with edits from White.
 - e. Presentation/Discussion Idling Reduction

White provided a presentation on the cost and effect on the environment of idling vehicles. The committee selected the school drop off and pickup line, drive through and car washes as potential low-hanging fruit. The committee will focus on education efforts, including working with the school and businesses on signage regarding idling and a column in the paper. The committee felt it made sense to target the start of school in August to roll out the campaign.

- f. **Update on Energy Audit/Planning Grants**
Administrator Owen stated he is working with Slipstream on an application for a Public Service Commission Rural Energy Startup Program grant. This is a new program through the PSC, so we don't know how competitive the application will be. We are applying for \$75,000 for performing energy audits and will be matched with \$15,000 in staff salary. We lose points in the application for not being an economically disadvantaged community but felt it was worth submitting.
- g. **Adopt A Community Program**
Committee members chose the following communities: Gottwald - Stoughton, White - McFarland, Saltes - Oregon, Beheler - Cross Plains, Grabe - Middleton, Butosov - Sun Prairie and Gauger - Waunakee. Committee members will monitor their communities activity and provide written summaries for the consent agenda.
- h. **Consider Strategic Plan for 2024**
Gottwald reviewed the draft strategic plan with edits based on feedback from the last meeting. Feedback from tonight will be used to amend the document, and it will be brought back for consideration at the next meeting. After discussion, the committee recommended the following additions: to the Village section, adding green space; for businesses, adding sustain Dane membership, partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and connecting with realtors and builders.
- i. **Discussion on Composting Program**
White reviewed information on a partnership program planned with the Library on composting using presenters from Dane County Land and Water Conservation. The event will be April 16th at the library. The committee discussed a follow-up session later with hands-on presentations on composting. Additional details will be discussed next month.
- j. **SolSmart Update**
White reported that the final piece of the SolSmart application has been completed. White will work with Owen and submittal.
- k. **Update/Discussion on keeping bees**
Gottwald reported that resident Phil Levenworth and several other residents are interested in pursuing the ability to keep bees in the Village. Levenworth is working on getting an entomologist to present to the committee. Gottwald highlighted the major question we will be asking:

what are the benefits and potential damage of allowing honey bees on native pollinators and plants. Administrator Owen to research the possibility of allowing the entomologies to participate in the meeting virtually.

I. Future Agenda Items

Items discussed for the next meeting are : the addition of a consent agenda for reports, drug drop off, composting program, report on solar 101 and a potential presentation from Wastewater Utility Superintendent John Klein.

3) Meeting adjournment.

Motion to adjourn by Beheler, second by Grabe. Motion carried at 8:41 p.m.