



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

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SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7:00 PM

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, Gottwald, Butusov and Fendrick. Absent: Gauger. Also Present: Administrator Owen.
- 2) Agenda Items
 - a. Consideration of October 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Beheler to approve the October 24, 2023 minutes, second by Saltes. Motion carried.
 - b. Presentation: RENEW Challenge

Students from the High School and Middle School were present to discuss the Renew our Schools challenge. During the 5-week challenge, students presented to teachers and students to encourage and educate on energy-saving measures. The winning team will receive \$2,500 to go towards energy efficiency projects at their school. The committee thanked the students for their efforts and presenting at the meeting.
 - c. Report on Sustainability Leaders Collaborative Meeting

White informed the group about his attendance at the Sustainability Leaders Collaborative Meeting. The SLC is a partnership of cities, towns, villages and school districts across the county focused on climate change. The purpose of the group is to facilitate collaboration, enabling all Dane County Communities to achieve their sustainability goals.
 - d. Report on Sustain Dane Summit

Members Grabe and White attended the 2023 Sustain Dane Summit. Grabe reported that the summit was an excellent opportunity to view booths of sustainability vendors, view presentations on various topics including efforts to communicate the importance of climate awareness and network with others regarding sustainability topics.
 - e. Update on Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Program

Butosov reported that he was not able to submit the application before the deadline, but thanks to members Beheler and Grabe, he has all the

background information needed for a future application. He added Grabe informed him of a Rotary Club of Mount Horeb grant that would be a funding opportunity as well. The Rotary Grant would provide greater flexibility in how the funds are used. Beheler volunteered to complete the Rotary grant application. The committee is interested in applying for the Seeds for Education grant in the future.

f. Solsmart Update

White reported that he and Administrator Owen will be attending Solar Friendly Planning workshop on Thursday which will help achieve the planning and zoning requirements for the SolSmart designation. White feels we are still on schedule to submit for bronze designation by the end of the year.

g. Municipal procurement presentation and discussion

White provided a presentation on municipal procurement policies that include requiring sustainable options. The committee felt including sustainability options in a procurement policy was a great idea but did not feel we had enough background information to make that recommendation to the Board yet. Committee will continue discussion on sustainability goals that can be incorporated into a purchasing plan that is right for Mount Horeb.

h. Discussion/consideration : Adopt a Community Strategy

White presented the idea for each committee member to "adopt" one of the other municipalities that have sustainability committees in Dane County. Once a month, the committee member would look up what their adopted community's sustainability committee was doing and report back to our committee to determine if there is a new item we should take up. The committee discussed the logistics of the program and what communities should be included. Committee members will research the other municipalities with committees and will discuss and pick municipalities to adopt at the next meeting.

i. Discussion: SNR Strategic Planning

Gottwald and White prepared a draft concept of options for a strategic plan for the committee. The consensus of the committee was that a simple plan was better and that they liked the plan that focused on which audience to focus our efforts on. The committee also agreed that the School District should be added as an audience. Gottwald and White will revise the plan using this feedback for consideration at the next meeting.

j. Discussion on SNR Flyer/Post Cards

The idea behind a flyer or post card would be to hand out at SNR events or to people members meet that are interested in the committee. The committee discussed the desire to limit any printing and use of recycled paper, double-sided printing and using QR codes to direct individuals to our website to maximize sustainability. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.

- k. Discussion on Bike Trail Grants
White reported he has been in discussion with a resident that is interested in increasing biking options in the Village. White is researching the requirements for designation as a bike-friendly community.
 - l. Update on Solar 101 Program
White reported that the event has been set for Saturday, February 3rd at the Children's Community School. Speakers have been lined up and White is working on logistics. The consensus of the committee was to set the time as: noon to 1:00 school tour and program from 1:00 to 3:00.
 - m. NAR Pearl Certification
Grabe reported on the National Association of Realtors Pearl Certification. Pearl is a third-party that certifies energy-efficient homes and trains realtors to work with sellers to leverage efficiency in the real estate market. MLS listings will include if a home is certified and the program helps to highlight the economics of investing in energy efficiency in homes.
 - n. Discussion: Sustainability Column for Mount Horeb Mail
The committee reviewed the column drafted by White with edits by Beheler highlighting the progress of the committee during its first year. The committee approved the column. The committee discussed future columns advertising the Solar 101 event, residential composting and residential efficiency programs.
 - o. Discussion/Consideration of December Meeting
The December meeting will fall on December 26th. The consensus of the committee was to cancel the December meeting. Future agenda items include the Adopt a Community program, consideration of a strategic plan, a program on composting and regular progress updates.
- 3) Meeting adjournment.
Motion by Gottwald to adjourn, second by Beheler. Motion carried at 8:56 p.m.