



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, March 26, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Municipal Building Board Room

138 E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
 - a. Roll Call
- 2) Consent Agenda
 - a. Consideration of February 27th, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Sustain Dane Climate Anxiety Breakfast Slides and Information
 - c. Adopt a Municipality Reports
 - d. Review and approve Mount Horeb Mail Column: Prescription Drug Take Back
 - e. Solsmart Update
- 3) Agenda Items
 - a. Discussion on Increasing Cycling in Mount Horeb
 - b. Discussion on Green Team
 - c. Debrief on Wastewater Treatment Facility Tour
 - d. Update on Middle School Native Plant Project
 - e. Discussion on Carbon Sequestering Presentation at Mount Horeb Public Library
 - f. Discussion on Composting Program and Article
 - g. Discussion on Idling Reduction Campaign
 - h. Discussion on WPPI Regional Power Dinner, April 24th
 - i. Review Draft Guide for Recycling Materials
- 4) Future Agenda Items
- 5) Meeting adjournment.

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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, February 27, 2024 at 7:00 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Call to order
Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: White, Butusov, Saltes, Beheler, Grabe, Gauger, Gottwald and Fendrick. Also present Administrator Owen.
- 2) Consent Agenda
Motion by Beheler, second by Gottwald to recommend approval. Motion carried.
 - a. Consideration of January 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Adopt a Municipality Updates:
- 3) Agenda Items
 - a. Discussion on Bee Keeping in Village
Gottwald introduced Phil Leavenworth, a Village Resident interested in having a backup beehive in the Village for his hive located outside the village limits. Leavenworth explained that the research he has seen is inconclusive on the effect of European honey bees on native pollinators and plants and that the main factors that would negatively affect their populations are the density of the bee hive and potential draught conditions. Leavenworth asked the committee to consider a policy allowing hives based on their location and only allowing 1 hive per property. The consensus of the committee was that more information is still needed and they would like to have an entomologist from the UW attend a meeting and speak on the subject.
 - b. Discussion on ideas to encourage cycling
Resident Jocelyn Vande Velde spoke to the committee about ideas to educate and encourage more biking in the Village. Ideas include organizing a bike train to school, improved wayfinding for biking and bike racks and the process for receiving Bike Friendly Community status. Vande Velde will be doing a blog post for the Chamber of Commerce highlighting cycling opportunities in Mount Horeb. The consensus of the committee was to start with the bike train idea and try to

coordinate it with Earth Day. Administrator Owen noted they will be working on the wayfinding ideas as a result of the downtown parking study. White will research bike friendly status.

- c. Discussion on safe and best practices of medication disposal
Grabe referred to the meeting notes regarding the drug drop box at the Police Department. Grabe added she would also like to educate the community on the environmental affects of prescription drugs in the wastewater process, possibly timed with Earth Day. The committee discussed the possibility of including information in the utility bills and a potential Mount Horeb Main article in March highlighting this issue and all the other activities planned for April.
- d. SNR 2024 Strategic Plan
Gottwald introduced the strategic plan for 2024 based on the feedback of the committee at prior meetings, noting that this is a good starting point and can be amended throughout the year. Motion by Butusov, second by Saltes to approve the strategic plan for 2024. Motion carried. The committee thanked Gottwald and White for their work on the document.
- e. Discussion: Creation of Mount Horeb Green Team
Administrator Owen introduced the idea of a Green Team that other municipalities have created separate from their sustainability committees as a way to streamline non-governmental activities such as planning educational events and articles. The Committee felt there was some potential benefit but were concerned about duplicating work and having enough members for two separate committees. The committee will research the framework of Green Teams in other municipalities to discuss at the next meeting.
- f. Debrief on Solar 101 and Cow and Climate Change Events
White reported that around 30 people attended the Cow and Climate Change presentation at the Historium. White felt it was a good event, and he provided a recording of the event to the cable TV channel for posting. The committee members also felt the Solar 101 was a good event and thought that the mix of speakers expertise was helpful.
- g. Solsmart Update
White happily reported that the Solsmart application is ready for submittal. He added there are a lot of items we met that are not included in this application that we can use to submit for Silver status. The committee thanked White for his work on the application.
- h. Idling Discussion
White spoke with the district, and they are supportive of an effort to educate them on idling with the start of the next school year. Ideas include education materials for parents, signage and a pledge signed by parents.
- i. Update on Zoning Code Rewrite Process

Administrator Owen reported that the Village Board approved the rewrite of the zoning code; the process will take between 12-18 months. Owen added that the Plan Commission and Board will do a majority of the work but will reach out to committees for feedback on items that are in their area of expertise.

j. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items include: Continued discussion on the Green Team, the composting program, debrief on the Wastewater Treatment Facility tour and the Middle School native plant project. Grabe will have a report on the Sustain Dane Climate Anxiety session for the consent agenda.

k. Reminder: Wastewater Treatment Facility Tour: Saturday, March 23, 9:00 a.m.

4) Meeting adjournment.

Motion by Gottwald to adjourn, second by Beheler. Motion carried at 8:50 p.m.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

March 26, 2024

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 2.b

Sustain Dane Climate Anxiety Breakfast Slides and Information

BACKGROUND

To boil down key concepts, 55% of adults experience climate anxiety which is another mental health challenge people are experiencing today. Committing to community-based action is one of the coping mechanisms, which is why outreach of this organization encompasses public health and resilience in our community.

A couple of slides from the presentation:

Some helpful links digging deeper into contemplative practices on the final slide.

Practice Tonglen, a meditation practice.

<https://centerhealthyminds.org/join-the-movement/healthy-minds-in-practice-tonglen-for-eco-anxiety>

Healthy Minds Program app

<https://hminnovations.org/meditation-app>

RITA Summit keynote featuring Dr. Richard Davison, and Britt Wray

<https://youtu.be/hAQLoCJ2B-8?si=uqQUt7OW6FgiKKVy>

Elizabeth Grabe

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

1. Feb 2024 SBS Slides

“Thus far, most research and communications on the impacts of climate change have emphasized the physical health effects, while mental health has been secondary.”

-Clayton, Manning, Krygsman, & Speiser (2017)
Mental Health and Our Changing Climate Report

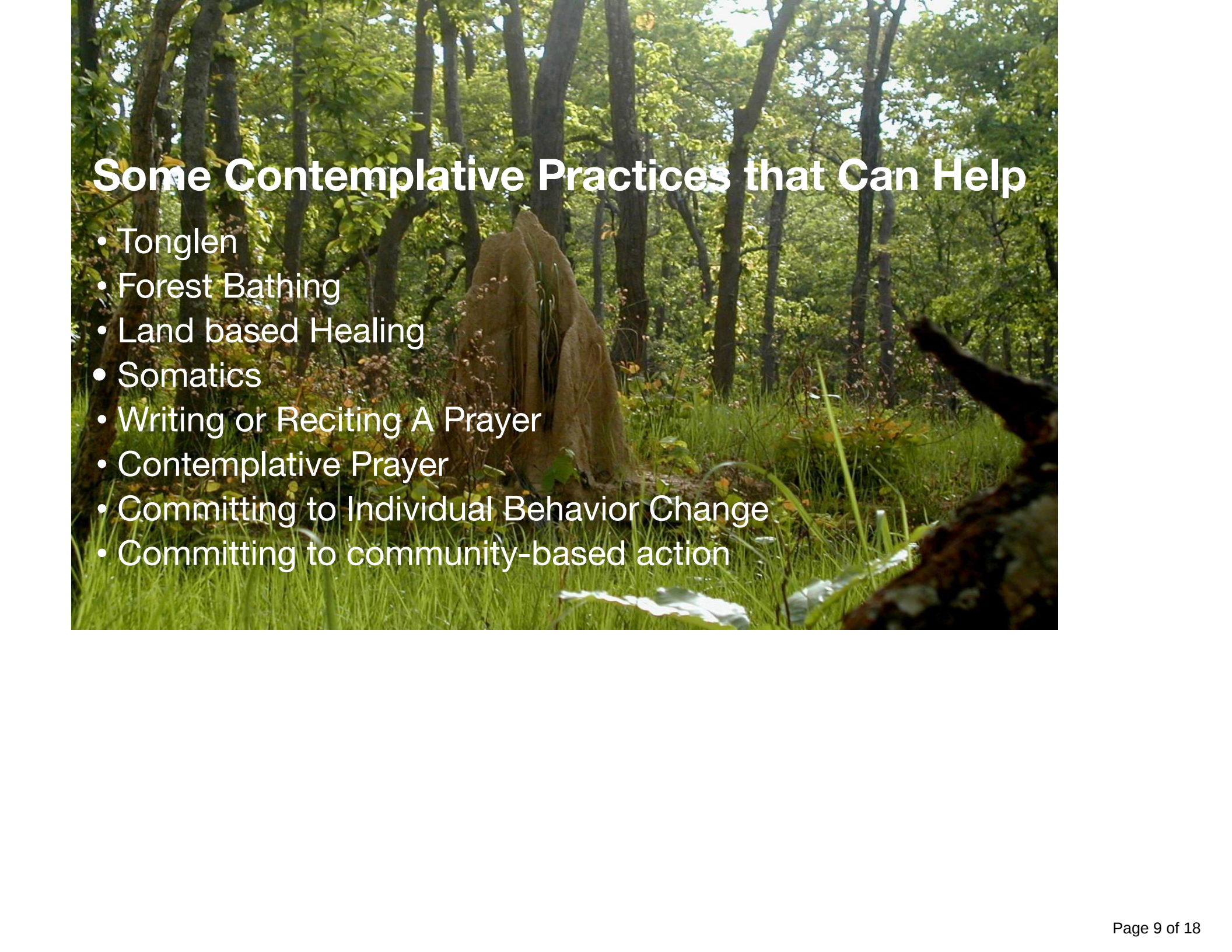
Threats to Mental Health and Wellbeing

55% of Americans find climate change to be a significant source of stress (American Psychological Association, 2020)

84% of children and young adults ages 16-25 at least moderately worried about climate change (Hickman et al., 2021)

59% very or extremely worried

45% report impact on daily functioning



Some Contemplative Practices that Can Help

- Tonglen
- Forest Bathing
- Land based Healing
- Somatics
- Writing or Reciting A Prayer
- Contemplative Prayer
- Committing to Individual Behavior Change
- Committing to community-based action



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

March 26, 2024

PREPARED BY**AGENDA ITEM # 2.d**

Review and approve Mount Horeb Mail Column: Prescription Drug Take Back

BACKGROUND**RECOMMENDATION****ATTACHMENTS**

1. Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 27

Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 27

Earth Day events remind us to do right by our environment. April 27 is Prescription Drug Take Back Day, an event to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposal of prescription medications. Not only does this event help keep harmful substances out of the environment; it is a vital concern for public safety.

Accidental ingestion by children is a major concern. According to [pharmacytimes.com](https://www.pharmacytimes.com), 60,000 children a year wind up at the emergency room due to taking drugs found in the family household. A majority of unused drugs prescribed are pain medications which can have devastating effects if found in the wrong hands. Improperly disposed drugs can have significant impact on our environment as well.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources states that pharmaceuticals and personal care products are being detected in surface waters and groundwater. Chemical compounds from medications and personal care products enter waterways and groundwater through wastewater, runoff, seepage from septic systems, and leaching from landfills. Effects downstream have health implications to our drinking water, affect soil and water quality, and cause biological changes to wildlife.

If you can't make the drop off day event, the Mount Horeb medicine drop off is located at Mount Horeb Police Department, 400 Blue Mounds St. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. Accepted items include prescription and over-the-counter medications, and pet medications. Vape pens and other e-cigarette items are accepted with the batteries removed. Blue Mounds medicine drop off box is located at the police department, 11011 Brigham Ave. from Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Rather than flushing unused medicine down the drain or in the trash, medicine drop offs provide a safer and environmentally responsible method of drug disposal. More information of safe drug disposal can be found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/safe-disposal.htm>

Elizabeth Grabe, Mount Horeb Village Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
March 26, 2024	
AGENDA ITEM # 3.b	
Discussion on Green Team	
BACKGROUND	
RECOMMENDATION	
ATTACHMENTS	
None	



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

March 26, 2024

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 3.c

Debrief on Wastewater Treatment Facility Tour

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
March 26, 2024	
AGENDA ITEM # 3.d	
Update on Middle School Native Plant Project	
BACKGROUND	
RECOMMENDATION	
ATTACHMENTS	
None	



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
March 26, 2024	
AGENDA ITEM # 3.e	
Discussion on Carbon Sequestering Presentation at Mount Horeb Public Library	
BACKGROUND	
RECOMMENDATION	
ATTACHMENTS	
None	



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
March 26, 2024	
AGENDA ITEM # 3.f	
Discussion on Composting Program and Article	
BACKGROUND	
RECOMMENDATION	
ATTACHMENTS	
None	



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

March 26, 2024

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 3.h

Discussion on WPPI Regional Power Dinner, April 24th

BACKGROUND

WPPI regularly holds events at various member locations, and this year Mount Horeb was chosen to house a Regional Power Dinner. The event will be Wednesday, April 24th at Buck and Honey's. These events are great opportunities to hear from WPPI and network with representatives from other municipal utilities. Chair White will be out of town and would like to see if a SNR committee member could attend.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None

**PET or PETE**

Polyethylene Terephthalate.

Plastic water bottles and soda bottles, salad dressing bottles, peanut butter containers and vegetable oil containers. Most curbside programs pick up these common plastics as long as they are thoroughly rinsed.

**HDPE**

High-Density Polyethylene.

Plastic grocery bags, milk jugs and shampoo bottles, butter and yogurt tubs. Plastic bags can be recycled at most stores; Most curbside programs pick up this type of plastic.

**PVC and V**

Polyvinyl Chloride and Vinyl.

Vinyl siding, piping and windows.

This material is rarely recycled, but check with your community sanitation department. Otherwise these items go to the landfill.

**LDPE**

Low Density Polyethylene.

Dry cleaning and shopping bags, furniture, squeeze bottles, toothpaste tubes. This material is rarely recycled, but check with your community sanitation department. Otherwise, these items go to the landfill.

**PP**

Polypropylene.

Syrup and medicine bottles, caps, straws and some food containers. These can be recycled curbside if they are clean. More communities are accepting these materials for recycling.

**PS**

Polystyrene.

Disposable plates and cups, egg cartons, or carry-out containers. This material has limited use for recycling. Because Styro-foam breaks apart easily, it should be tightly bagged prior to tossing in the trash.

**Other Miscellaneous.**

A catch-all for a wide variety of plastics, including BPA, polycarbonate and bio-based plastics. Most cannot be recycled, but bio-based plastics can sometimes be composted. Check your local municipality for specific instructions in your area.

Not All Recycling Materials are Created Equal.

Area for call to action or additional information copy.

1,2 and sometimes 5.

Brought to you by the Village of Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources (SNR) Committee.

