



## VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

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

Email: [mhinfo@mounthorebwi.info](mailto:mhinfo@mounthorebwi.info) Web: [mounthorebwi.info](http://mounthorebwi.info)

### **SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, February 27, 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, 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.