



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

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

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SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Municipal Building Board Room

138 E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Consent Agenda
 - a. Consideration of September 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Adopt a municipality report
- 3) Agenda Items
 - a. Comprehensive Energy Plan Update
 - b. Sustainability Plan Development
 - c. Idling Campaign Update
 - d. Strategic Plan Update
 - e. Future Agenda Items
- 4) Meeting adjournment.

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SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 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, Halverson, Gottwald and Saltes. Members absent: Beheler, Butusov and Grabe. Also present: Administrator Owen.
- 2) Consent Agenda

Chair White removed the Update on Energy Plan for Discussion. Administrator Owen informed the committee the contract is signed, and they are working to set up a kick-off meeting to discuss the plan and the SNR's role. After discussion, motion by Halverson to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Saltes. Motion carried.

 - a. Approval of August 27, 2024, Meeting Minutes
 - b. Adopt A Municipality Reports
 - c. Update on Energy Plan
- 3) Agenda Items
 - a. Proclamation recognizing area Climate Champs

White read the proclamation recognizing the area's climate champions and a congratulatory letter from Kathy Kunz, Director of Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change. White added recipients have been invited to attend next week's Village Board meeting to receive their award.
 - b. Update on Green Team Survey

Butusov was absent, but White noted he believes the article was submitted to the paper.
 - c. Update on Idling Campaign

White reported that talking with the School they felt the paper foldover signs would be a good way to start the campaign. White also noted we

are a little behind the EPA's recommended schedule for Idle Free Schools, but thought that was ok. White added he will inquire with the EPA about the free brochures available.

d. Recommendation of SNR Committee Budget Request

White reported that the Historic Preservation Committee approved and is drafting a budget request asking for \$1,500. The consensus of the committee was it would be reasonable to make a similar request and identified potential expenses of \$900 for programming and events and \$600 for idling signage with the school. Motion by Halverson to recommend approval of the budget request, second by Gottwald. Motion carried. White will prepare the request for the Finance committee.

e. Future Agenda Items

Future items identified include: Sustainability Plan Development, Energy Plan Update, Green Team Update, Idling campaign update, and strategic plan report.

4) Meeting adjournment.

Motion by Halverson to adjourn, second by Gottwald Motion carried. 7:22 p.m.



These are the Stoughton Sustainability Committee's plan action items from December 2023.

The committee used surveys and other work to get to these prioritized actions. They then drafted a sustainability plan, which at this point is working its way through an approval and adoption process. The group put in tons of work as individuals, and they had group work time at their monthly meetings as well. This seems to be a multi-year process. This is shared to give our committee an idea for a possible framework to write a sustainability plan for Mt. Horeb.

City of Stoughton Sustainability Plan Draft List of Priority Actions

This is an initial assessment of the priority actions identified for inclusion in the City of Stoughton's Sustainability Plan. Actions were included based on their Impact and Effort scores and/or their strong support from the community. Additionally, a few actions were selected for their "momentum building" potential - essentially these could be early wins for the Plan that would require little effort and encourage support for future actions that might be more involved.

Several new planning actions were added to ensure the City can establish a sustainability baseline against which it can measure its progress.

Actions that included code/ordinance changes as well as updates to the Comprehensive Plan were separated from this priority list as there are already plans at the city level to update many of these items. These changes/updates can be included in the Sustainability plan in a separate section.

* Indicates action has strong community support

Energy

Action #	Action	Timeline
NEW	Assess municipal energy usage. Set goals for energy consumption reduction, share of renewable energy, etc. Assess progress toward goals annually.	Near
E1	Conduct energy audits of city buildings to identify improvement areas and prioritize energy efficiency projects.	In Progress
E2	Establish or adopt sustainable building standards for new city facilities, which include requirements for net-zero construction.	Medium

E3	Retrofit city buildings with heat pumps to reduce natural gas usage.	Medium
*E6	Adopt sustainable building and energy efficiency standards for all new construction that go beyond the state's minimum requirements.	Medium
E7	Assess city's progress toward achieving Governor's goals: 1) 100% carbon-free electricity for government operations by 2050 (EO #38). 2) Ensure all electricity consumed in Wisconsin is 100% carbon-free by 2050 (EO #52)	Near
*E9	Convert a municipal facility to solar photovoltaic (PV) power to be enhanced in the future by converting an additional facility or two into an interconnected microgrid.	Long
E10	Join the Choose Renewables program as a municipality.	In Progress
E12	Identify opportunities for developing solar canopy infrastructure.	Medium
*E13	Provide incentives and support for businesses to incorporate energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy technologies in existing buildings.	In Progress
E14	Continue to publicize the Choose Renewables program.	In Progress
E15	Bring community stakeholders together to identify intersecting priorities and collaborate to implement clean energy projects.	In Progress

Transportation

Action #	Action	Timeline
*T1	Install bicycle racks at municipal buildings and other downtown locations.	Near
T6	Assess options for limiting or prohibiting vehicle traffic on Main Street during festivals and other occasions.	Medium
T7	Develop a Complete Green Streets approach to integrate the Complete Streets Policy Framework and Green Infrastructure Practices into local land use policies, street design, and the transportation chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.	Medium
T8	Develop the first park-and-ride location at one of two sites identified by the city.	Medium
*T16	Develop and implement a Safe Routes to School or equivalent program.	Near
NEW	Explore feasibility and funding opportunities to transition municipal fleet to electric.	Long

Water

Action #	Action	Timeline
NEW	Assess municipal water usage. Set goals for water conservation, etc. Assess progress toward goals annually.	Near
W1	Review water rate structure and make any necessary adjustments to encourage water conservation.	Near
*W2	Investigate all potential sources of groundwater contamination, especially old and current industrial and manufacturing sites, gas stations, and hazardous waste and superfund sites; pursue BIL and IRA cleanup funding as needed.	Near
W4	Evaluate water use of municipal buildings and install more water saving fixtures as needed.	Medium
*W7	Evaluate current leaf management practices against most current technical guidance and explore potential enhancements to street sweeping, leaf collection, and other practices to reduce total suspended solids and phosphorus in city stormwater below the levels required by state regulations.	Medium
*W8	Explore road salt alternatives and reduction strategies, and implement changes without compromising public safety on our roads and sidewalks.	In Progress
W9	Adopt rain barrel use where feasible on city properties. (Paired with W19)	Near
*W11	Phase out the use of herbicides on city-owned lands, starting with areas more likely to contaminate groundwater or surface water, by replacing conventional vegetation with lower maintenance native alternatives that have denser root systems that inhibit weed growth.	Long
W19	Identify ways to utilize wastewater and rainwater collection for irrigation of city-owned and private landscapes. (Paired with W9)	Long

Solid Waste

Action #	Action	Timeline
NEW	Assess City of Stoughton overall recycling rate. Set goals for waste reduction, reuse. Assess progress toward goals annually.	Near
S1	Create a municipal purchasing policy that requires consideration be given to whether a product is made from biodegradable and/or recycled materials.	Near
S8	Adopt a resolution to address food waste with clear and measurable food waste diversion goals.	Near
S11	City staff and partners attend a Dane County Sustainability Campus tour and/or workshop to learn and connect with the current work and vision for meeting future waste management	Near

	needs.	
*S12	Research feasibility of developing and operating a city compost site for food waste.	Medium
*S15	Build and maintain composting infrastructure at current and future city-run community gardens.	Near
S18	Develop a public education campaign that is in line with the City's sustainability goals for solid waste, in partnership with John's Disposal.	Near
S19	Host the Dane County landfill Trash Lab mobile exhibit, annually, during high traffic events.	Near
*S30	Support the school district in developing a program for food waste monitoring and reduction, including the incorporation of district-wide composting.	Medium

Land Use & Development

Action #	Action	Timeline
*L6	Identify lawns and parks lacking trees or native plants, and implement a plan to plant shade trees, native plants, prairie strips, rain gardens, or bioswales.	Medium
*L8	Examine city property and identify opportunities to replace turf grass with native plants that don't need to be mowed.	Near
L9	Identify upcoming street reconstruction projects and new developments to encourage city and developers to install Green Infrastructure such as bioswales, rain gardens, permeable pavement, tree canopy, etc., to promote biodiversity-rich business parks and neighborhoods.	Near
*L10	Require implementation of conservation practices (e.g., pervious pavement; 0% turf grass; landscaping using native plants; planting shade trees) for developers requesting TIF money.	Near
*L19	Explore ways to permit and incentivize the replacement of turf grass with native vegetation and/or water-wise landscapes that do not require mowing.	Medium
*L20	Increase funding in the CIP to increase the purchase and planting of shade trees on public lands.	Long
*L24	Improve parks, trails, open space, and landscaping at facilities with native habitat, tree canopy, gardens, rain gardens, native prairie, and prairie strips.	Long
L26	Promote connections between agricultural producers and Stoughton businesses and residents, supporting local sustainable agriculture.	Medium

Community Health & Engagement

Action #	Action	Timeline
*C1	Create and maintain a web page easily accessible from the city's home page dedicated to sustainability resources, guidance, and community events and activities.	Near
*C4	Create a process for facilitated and ongoing community dialogue around controversial topics related to sustainability and development.	Near
C5	Establish a greenhouse gas measuring station.	Near
C7	Develop demonstration projects to showcase best management practices in energy, water conservation, native plantings, recycling, etc.	Medium
*C8	Use schools and anchor institutions to model/showcase energy efficiency and sustainable practices.	Medium
C10	Partner with organizations within the community to hold regular and frequent community education events to promote sustainability.	Near
C21	Hire a consultant to assess any industries reporting emissions of hazardous pollutants to air, water, or land, and engage all relevant stakeholders and regulatory agencies in a discussion addressing ending harm to the community.	Near

Recommended Ordinance/Code Changes

Action #	Action
E8	Compare the city's building and zoning codes to the current best practices for energy efficiency and climate and economic resilience; identify and prioritize opportunities to update codes.
T2	Amend the parking ordinance to require bicycle racks for all new commercial and multifamily buildings.
T3	Adopt an ordinance allowing Neighborhood Electric Vehicles.
T7	Develop a Complete Green Streets approach to integrate the Complete Streets Policy Framework and Green Infrastructure Practices into local land use policies, street design, and the transportation chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.
T11	Incorporate EV charging guidance into the city's Comprehensive Plan update.
T13	Identify enforceable idling regulations for reducing emissions from unnecessary vehicle idling, then update ordinance(s) and pair the changes with public education.
T14	Target locations for public EV charging infrastructure and amend the zoning ordinance to require EV charging stations where appropriate (e.g. new multi-family

	developments).
W10	Require pervious surfaces and infiltration areas utilizing native vegetation in all new developments and redevelopments. (ordinance update)
W13	Require protection or establishment of native vegetation in shoreline buffer zones of new developments and redevelopments.
W25	Use ordinance to improve construction site water infiltration, runoff management, and erosion control.
S7	Develop and adopt clear and simple waste reduction policies to encourage compliance.
L1	Update ordinance to allow for cooperative living arrangements.
L2	Update zoning ordinance to allow for conservation subdivisions and agricultural neighborhoods.*
L4	Review and update the city's zoning and ordinances to allow smaller lots, decrease setbacks, ADUs, less land for parking lots, more multi-family.
L5	Add conservation practices into land use regulations for new developments.
L11	Implement Smart Surfaces Coalition alternative surface technologies for city roofs, streets, sidewalks, and parking lots, and update all related ordinance requirements to include and encourage public and municipal use of these alternatives.
L16	Change ordinance to require that terraces/tree lawns are wide enough to support shade trees and rain gardens.
L22	Identify and adopt local land use policies to lay the groundwork for widespread adoption of EVs, customer-based energy generation, and the implementation of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs).
L23	Update property maintenance requirements in the municipal code to include rain gardens as an acceptable drainage option for diverting stormwater away from buildings.
L27	Adopt a zoning or ordinance amendment to limit formula businesses (options include capping the total number of, limiting the density of, or prohibiting altogether).
L29	Review and update land use goals, objectives, and policies in the city's Comprehensive Plan to identify gaps and find opportunities to protect environmentally sensitive areas and ensure sustainability measures and conservation practices are considered and implemented in land use and development decisions.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

October 22, 2024

PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

AGENDA ITEM # 3.a

Comprehensive Energy Plan Update

BACKGROUND

Staff met with representatives of Slipstream to have a kickoff meeting. The first step of the development of the energy use plan is the gathering of energy use information to prepare benchmark usage. Once that is gathered Slipstream will report back to the SNR committee for feedback and direction.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None

The SNR Committee will establish a short-term strategic plan for 2024. It's understood that the SNR Committee will have longer term plans and goals once funding is secured for a village sustainability report and plan. Until then, the committee wishes to focus its efforts.

What is within our purview as a committee?

Municipal committees provide advice and support to the municipal governing body. Actions that they take are either previously authorized or subsequently ratified by the governing body.

The SNR Committee will focus on the follow objectives and actions. The committee will also be open to other objectives, actions, and topics as may arise over the year.

Our objectives and actions are arranges by audience:

- 1) Village (municipal facilities and services) - Make village operations more sustainable
 - a) Learn more about how village facilities are using energy by, for example, an energy usage audit, gathering and comparing information that is already available, talking with village staff, etc.
 - b) Plan how to lower usage, and offset overall use of energy.
 - c) Explore consideration of lower impact vehicles, equipment and HVAC as village purchases such
 - d) With the village review and update of ordinances in 2024, be in regular communication to advise on pertinent topics such as dark skies
 - e) Education around and promotion of idling reduction
 - f) Promotion of adding green parcels to village land for pollinator habitat
 - g) Solsmart certification
 - h) Regularly report out on learnings from other similar municipal committees in Dane County
- 2) Schools – Collaborate with MHASD in sustainable efforts
 - a) Collaborate on native plantings at the Middle School
 - b) Advocating and partnering on renewable energy and energy conservation
 - c) Work and mentor student Green Team and Energy Team for sustainable school facility
- 3) Residents – Assist village residents live more sustainably
 - a) Provide 3 educational events
 - i) Solar 101 (scheduled Feb. 3, 2024)
 - ii) Composting 101 (at library – April)
 - iii) Other topics for consideration – safe drug disposal, idling
 - b) Regular *Mount Horeb Mail* columns

- 4) Businesses – Assist village businesses operate more sustainably
 - a) Partner with Chamber for outreach
 - b) Highlight, recognize, and celebrate sustainable practices.
 - c) Explore single-use plastic reduction guidance
 - d) Consider annual event on sustainable businesses
 - e) Advocating for and providing resources for renewable energy production
 - f) Network with other organizations such as Sustain Dane for ideas on promotion and support of sustainable business practices