



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, February 25, 2025 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 January 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - b. EIG Grant Update
 - c. Adopt a Municipality Updates
- 3) Agenda Items
 - a. Consideration of Comments to Village Board on ATV/UTV Ordinance
 - b. Green Team Update
 - c. School Update
 - d. Bag Recycling Program Discussion
 - e. Anti-idling Campaign Update
 - f. Discussion on SNR Committee Size and Residency Requirement
 - g. Future Agenda Items
- 4) Meeting adjournment.

UPON REASONABLE NOTICE, EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS THROUGH APPROPRIATE AIDS AND 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, January 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Call to order
 - a. Roll Call
Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Members present: White, Beheler, Grabe, Saltes, Gottwald, Giles, Butusov and Halverson.
- 2) Public Comment - non agenda items
No public comment
- 3) Consent Agenda
Motion by Gottwald to recommend approval, second by Beheler. Motion carried.
 - a. Consideration of December 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Adopt a Municipality Reports
- 4) Agenda Items
 - a. Review of ATV/UTV Ordinance and Comments for Village Board
White reviewed the draft ordinance and added that the committee can provide comments on the ordinance relative to the mission of the committee to the Village Board for consideration. The Committee discussed their opposition based on pollution, noise, soil and water runoff and interference with the lifestyle we are trying to promote, (biking, walking and peacefully enjoying outdoors). Beheler and White will develop a statement for the committee to consider at the next meeting to present to the Board.
 - b. Green Team Update
Butusov presented the comments from the Green Team Survey and a draft email to thank them for answering the survey and gather preferred dates for a Green Team Meeting. Butusov will work with Grabe to prepare the first email and regular emails updating on the SNR meetings to keep the Green Team engaged.
 - c. Anti-Idling Campaign Update

White presented an updated anti-idling campaign flyer that would go out with utility bills. The committee discussed edits to make the flyer more attractive and less expensive. Grabe will help White with a redesign.

d. Scandihoovian Fest Update

Butusov was not able to locate the bag man costume. With Scandihoovian quickly approaching it's not likely we will be able to participate. The committee felt it was best to focus on a later event and partnering with the schools energy team.

e. Shared Calendar Discussion

Halverson will put together a shared calendar for the committee so they can share meeting and event dates and grant and project deadlines.

f. Energy Plan/EIG Grant Update

Administrator Owen reported that the energy use data for vehicles and buildings has been submitted to Slipstream. Slip Steam will be developing benchmarks and efficiency improvement ideas to present to SNR.

g. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items include: Green Team Update, School Update, ATV/UTV Comments, bag recycling program, adaptive management, anti-idling campaign and EIG Grant Update.

5) Meeting adjournment.

Motion by Saltes to adjourn, second by Halverson. Motion carried at 8:13 p.m.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

February 25, 2025

PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

AGENDA ITEM # 2.b

EIG Grant Update

BACKGROUND

Staff had a check-in with Slipstream last week. They are finalizing the energy use data and then move to preparing the benchmark reports. Hopefully, this will be ready for presenting to the SNR committee in March.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None

Adopt a Community program

Stoughton

The Sustainability Committee of Stoughton released their final, adopted Sustainability Plan in November 2024. The committee worked for quite a while on the plan, and the results are impressive. My impressions include:

- There was a lot of community input before work on a plan
- Many of the action items are the responsibility of the city staff
- The plan is very detailed in what the goals and actions are

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63d446e846a5e7154fea612c/t/6745ed1a96a20d7cbd8dc3a3/1732635939118/Stoughton-Sustainability-Action-Plan-2024.pdf>

Milwaukee (special report)

Kathy Kuntz had also suggested that we look at Milwaukee's sustainability plan for ideas on format.

That report is more aspirational, with 10 big picture items that outline a final vision. Conceivably, many different parts of the large city would contribute to the actions that relate to those goals. Milwaukee's sustainability plan couples environmental sustainability with equity.

https://city.milwaukee.gov/City-Forms/ECO_ClimatePlan_OnePager.pdf



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

February 25, 2025

PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

AGENDA ITEM # 3.a

Consideration of Comments to Village Board on ATV/UTV Ordinance

BACKGROUND

Following the last meeting, White and Beheler prepared the following comments for discussion and consideration tonight. These comments will be the formal recommendation from the SNR Committee to the Village board on the ATV/UTV ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

1. SNR ATV comments to Village Board draft 2

DRAFT

From: Village of Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee

To: Village of Mount Horeb Board

RE: Concerns regarding ATV/UTV use of public residential streets in the Village of Mount Horeb

Date: 12 February 2025

An ordinance to allow ATV/UTVs to operate on most Village of Mount Horeb streets was presented to the Public Safety Committee (PS) on January 20 2025. PS recommended the ordinance to the full Village Board for their consideration and approval or denial.

The Village of Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee (SNR) is tasked to help promote a sustainable community. Is allowing ATV/UTV use on Village residential streets compatible with sustainable practices?

The SNR recommends that ATV/UTV use is not allowed on Village residential streets, as they do not align with the Village goal to promote a sustainable quality of life and healthy, quiet, non-polluting modes of transportation.

The SNR submits the following concerns about ATV/UTV use on Village public residential streets to the Village Board:

Environmental Concerns

1. Air Pollution: Gasoline-powered ATVs contribute to emissions that degrade air quality in residential neighborhoods.

2. Soil and Water Runoff: Improper ATV use can damage lawns, ditches, and unpaved areas, leading to erosion and pollution of waterways. ATVs should not be allowed near sensitive environments such as parks, streams, and wetlands.

3. Noise Pollution: ATVs are noisy, which will disturb quiet residential neighborhoods. Decibel limits on ATVs and requiring noise-dampening equipment such as mufflers would be difficult to enforce. Implementing time restrictions (e.g., no ATV use after 8 p.m. or before 8 a.m.) to maintain neighborhood quiet would be difficult to enforce and costly for the Village.

Health Concerns

1. Air Quality and Respiratory Issues: Emissions from gasoline-powered ATVs worsen air quality, impacting residents with respiratory conditions (asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, others). Promoting regular maintenance of ATVs to ensure engines run efficiently and emissions are low would be difficult to regulate and enforce. Air quality monitoring to assess potential impacts would be costly for the Village.

2. Noise and Stress Levels: Excessive ATV noise can increase stress levels and disrupt daily life, particularly for children, the elderly, and animals. Mount Horeb is known for its quaint, quiet neighborhoods. ATV use would push noise into these neighborhoods. Limiting ATV speeds in residential areas (e.g., 10-15 mph), as lower speeds reduce noise levels, would be difficult to enforce and costly for the Village. Restricting ATVs to specific routes that avoid the most densely populated streets, and those without sidewalks, would be difficult to enforce and costly for the Village.

3. Safety and Pedestrian Risks: ATVs pose risks to pedestrians, cyclists, and children in residential neighborhoods due to limited visibility and ATV maneuverability. Many streets in Mount Horeb lack sidewalks, hence pedestrians and cyclists are on the streets. Enforcing strict speed limits in residential areas to reduce accidents and improve pedestrian safety would be difficult to enforce and costly for the Village.

Background and Supplemental Information:

Mount Horeb Village Police Chief Doug Vierck's opinion is that there are serious enforcement concerns with allowing ATV traffic in the Village. Chief Vierck presentation here: <https://trollway.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/2470?site=1> .

Primary concern with ATVs on Village of Mount Horeb streets is safety. The following statement is from the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America, the national not-for-profit trade association representing manufacturers and distributors of ATVs in the US. The Institute's major goal is to promote the responsible use of ATVs.

“ATV fatalities occurring on public roads comprise a significant portion of total ATV-related fatalities, as reported by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. If ATVs could be kept off public roads, as urged by the Institute and as contained in our model ATV legislation, a large percentage of ATV-related injuries and deaths would be prevented. ATVs are not designed, manufactured, or in any way intended for use on public streets, roads or highways. We urge that on-highway use of ATVs be prohibited and that law enforcement efforts be strengthened to eliminate this dangerous practice.”

ATVs are required to display safety warnings stating that they are not designed to be operated on roads. The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 requires an ATV warning label that clearly states “**NEVER USE ON PUBLIC ROADS.**”

Links to further information: 1. https://mmv.boku.ac.at/refbase/files/mmv6_292_293.pdf
2. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11189234/>

- Personal vehicle idling is the source of about half of all idling emissions.
- Idling of personal vehicles generates about 30 million tons of CO₂ every year.
- If each car in the United States idles just 6 minutes per day, nearly 3 billion gallons of fuel are wasted annually, costing drivers more than \$7 billion (when fuel is \$2.50/gal).



**Cleaner Air
for Mt. Horeb**

**BIG
Savings
on Fuel
for Residents**

Let's Clear the Air in Mount Horeb



Turn off ignition when:

- Picking someone up.
- Drive-through transactions.
- Warm up your vehicle with gentle acceleration.
- Consider stop-start technology or even an EV.
- Limit using remote start.

This insert courtesy of the
Village of Mount Horeb.



VILLAGE OF
MOUNT HOREB



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

February 25, 2025

PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

AGENDA ITEM # 3.f

Discussion on SNR Committee Size and Residency Requirement

BACKGROUND

President Czyzewski will be proposing updating the Village Resolution for the SNR committee's minimum membership from 7 members to 5 at the March Village Board meeting to take effect after the reorganization/May 1st. He would like the Committee's feedback and recommendations for the Village Board to consider.

Currently, the authorized membership is either 7 or 9, though in practice we are out of compliance as there are currently 8. This would bring the committee in line with other advisory committees (5 members). After reviewing the committee's operations and the anticipated creation of a citizen-led 'green' team, President Czyzewski believes this will allow the committee to more effectively focus on policies and act in the long-term interests of environmental and economic sustainability for the Village.

Feedback that would be beneficial for the Board to consider:

- Does the Committee have a recommendation?
- If the Village Board is interested in making the change, is there a recommendation to remove future appointment slots of one Trustee seat and one citizen, or two citizen seats?
- Does the committee recommend keeping the student representative as one of the citizen seats? Note, this representative seat is currently separate from the Youth in Government program.
- Recommendation on residency requirement versus citizen (statutes on this are being reviewed by legal)
- Are there questions the Board should consider?

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

1. reso 2022-15 Creating Sustainability Committee

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-15
VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB**

**A RESOLUTION CREATING THE SUSTAINABILITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE
COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB**

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

The term sustainability refers to a community’s capacity to support the long-term health and welfare of its natural and man-made environment, as well as all forms of life that depend on that environment. A sustainable community is focused not only on protecting natural resources, but also on ensuring a high quality of life for all residents. To move in the direction of sustainability, a community must recognize the interconnectedness of all things, as well as the impact their actions have on the greater region and the world.

A community can advance sustainability through a variety of strategies such as promoting comprehensive transportation networks and services; ensuring a variety of housing options throughout the community; investing in a strong economy that provides a diversity of local jobs, goods, and services; supporting well designed development that preserves high-quality farmland and complements the natural environment; seeking out opportunities to reduce non-renewable energy consumption and waste; and generally by developing comprehensive solutions to resolving complex issues.

WHEREAS, the decisions made today will directly affect the quality of life for future Mount Horeb residents; and,

WHEREAS, Mount Horeb’s Comprehensive Plan encourages the establishment of a Village Sustainability Committee to lead the effort in implementing the Dane County Climate Action Plan at the local level; and,

WHEREAS, Mount Horeb’s actions to lessen its carbon footprint will help mitigate a climate crisis for our county state, country, and planet; and,

WHEREAS, Mount Horeb can partner with other governmental and regional initiatives to provide a more sustainable future for its residents by leveraging grants and matching funds for economically sustainable initiatives, and,

WHEREAS, improving the Village’s quality of life makes the Village a more attractive destination to visitors and homeowners alike; and,

WHEREAS, Dane County, as well as many of its communities have initiated sustainability committees and have taken substantial actions to pass on a sustainable future for their communities; and,

WHEREAS, Mount Horeb Village Board has embraced a vision which addresses the following;

- Improve health and wellness of all residents.
- Increase our ability to adapt and be resilient to a changing climate.
- Bridge the rural and urban divide, creating solutions that work for everyone in the county.
- Enhance our natural environments, delivering ecosystem benefits.

Dane County's Action Plan documents global, national, and state-wide climate data and projections providing an understanding of the trends and changes in temperature, precipitation, greenhouse gas emissions, and energy usage. The major findings and recommendations are summarized below:

- Southern Wisconsin will continue to get hotter and wetter over the next 30 years.
- Implementing the policies, programs, and projects in the Action Plan could reduce county-wide greenhouse gas emissions by up to 50% by 2030, yet will still fall short of the goals for being carbon-neutral by 2050.
- Dane County can boost economic development, equity, and public health by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 45% by 2030.
- Key goals are to meet a significant amount of electricity demand with solar and wind by 2030, continue to transition away from petroleum-based vehicles, and increase investments in energy efficiency, energy conservation, and emission reduction strategies.
- There is a need to implement more sustainable agriculture systems, and Dane County can lead those efforts

- 2022 Village of Mount Horeb Comprehensive Plan, pp: 17

WHEREAS, a key component of substantial ecologic and economic stability is the actions of the citizenry. Therefore informational programming, listening sessions and encouraging sustainable actions should be incorporated into this committee's objectives. The village should lead by example and acknowledge the actions of individuals and groups.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Mount Horeb creates a (seven) or (nine) member Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee, comprised of up to two Village Board Trustees and six Mount Horeb residents to participate in the committee. Committee Members will be appointed by the Village President. If possible one committee appointment should be filled by a liaison from the Mt. Horeb Public High School to provide a voice for those who will inherit the actions of our community. The student will have voting privileges.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Village of Mount Horeb, this the ____ day of _____, 2022.

APPROVED:

By: _____
Randy J. Littel, Village President

ATTEST:

By: _____
Alyssa Gaffney, Village Clerk