



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

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SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 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 and Roethle. Also present: Administrator Owen.
- 2) Public Comments
No public comments.
- 3) Consent Agenda
Grabe gave an update on the activities of the Green Team. Motion by Beheler to approve the consent agenda, second by Saltes. Motion carried.
 - a. Consideration of June 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Adopt A Municipality Reports
 - c. Green Team Update
- 4) Agenda Items
 - a. Yard in a Yard Program - Katie Hartman
Katie Hartman presented the Yard in a Yard program where residents and businesses would designate a yard-sized section of their yard to be planted with native seeds. The program is a Green Team project and would be funded and carried out by Hartman. Hartman is looking to do a pilot program this year and has identified visible yards and some parks to use as examples for next year. She would take weekly pictures to help inform participants of what they could be seeing in their yard areas each week. Roethle asked what the SNR committee could do to help. Hartman indicated they could help with promotion and get the word out on the program. Grabe added that the Green Team has a promotional plan for the project. Peggy Zalucha, representing the Rotary club, reported that the Mount Horeb Rotary Club is supporting the program to fulfill one of the

Rotary's missions locally. Saltes asked about the option of using plugs rather than seeds. Hartman said she thought about it and, for simplicity and cost, seeds would be the best way to get started, but it may be an option to use one variety of plugs each year for people that are continuing in the program.

b. Bird City Designation

Behler reviewed the criteria for bird city designation, including the application and annual renewal fee of \$175. She added she is willing to work on the submittal but will not have time until October. The Green Team reviewed this item and, since it is a municipal designation, they felt it was best handled by the SNR and Village. Behler added that one key to the program are a Village-wide Welcome Back Bird day to coincide with the migration, so the goal will be to be submitted and prepared to participate on that day. Motion by Saltes to begin the process of seeking Bird City designation, second by Roethle. Motion carried.

c. Bike City Designation

Roethle reported on the bicycle-friendly designation. There is no cost to the application, and it creates a partnership between the Village and bicycling groups and businesses in the Village. The program essentially scores how bicycle-friendly the Village is, tells you what you do well and where you need to improve and, if you qualify, ranks you in one of three categories: platinum, silver or bronze. There is also an educational component to the program. Grabe stated she is in favor of seeking the designation but has concerns about the current status of the Village for safe biking and sees positives from the program and partnerships that can come out of it. For the next meeting, Roethle will reach out to the potential cycling groups and business partners. The grant application is due in June.

d. Pollinatory Pathway Discussion

Behler noted she is still willing to enter the Village properties but will not have time until fall. She added that Hartman's project will add many potential private pathway properties in the Village.

e. 2026 Budget Request

The Committee discussed the budget request of 2025 for \$1,000 which is being used for printing, and discussed other potential projects before year's end. The consensus was that they could use \$2,000 to expand programming, additional printing materials, postage, marketing and contributions to other projects. The committee will discuss further at next month's meeting.

f. Idling Reduction Project

1. Idling Reduction Utility Mailing Update

White reported he received a quote for the printing of the idling brochures at postal connections for \$400. The committee discussed the option of

using recyclable paper since we have budget money. White will follow up with the printer. Owen indicated White should follow up with Clerk Gaffney on the timing and instructions for getting the flyer in the September utility bill as an insert and any options for electronic distribution to those that receive electronic bills.

2. Discussion on idling reduction column

White will draft a column for the paper to coincide with the utility insert. The committee will review at the August meeting.

g. Discussion on Renewable Diesel

White presented the City of Madison is looking for partners interested in switching to renewable diesel for fueling municipal fleets. Owen reported that we do not have our own fuel tanks and use the Premier Coop, so we would need their buy-in and commitment. The committee was interested in the price and how it compares to regular diesel. White reported that except for in Californian it is much more expensive, but the hope is that getting bulk purchasing will bring the price down. Grabe stated she is interested in the metrics and how it would show reductions in carbon use. The consensus of the committee was that there is interest and the Slipstream report may help to give us more insight in the fuel use and benefits. Grabe is participating in an upcoming webinar and will share information with the committee and White will stay in communication with the City of Madison.

5) Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items include: Green Team Update, Bicycle Friendly Community Update, Idling Campaign Update, Sustainable Tourism Report, SNR Logo Discussion, Sustainability Plan Update.

6) Meeting adjournment.

Motion by Beheler to adjourn, second by Saltes. Motion carried. 8:32 p.m.