



## 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, December 16, 2025 at 7:00 PM**

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

- 1) Call to order  
Chair White called the meeting to order at 7:00. Members present: White, Best, Beheler, Grabe, Roethle and Saltes. Also present: Administrator Owen.
- 2) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items\*  
None
- 3) Consent Agenda  
Motion by Saltes to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Roethle. Motion carried.
  - a. Consideration of November 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes
  - b. Update on Compost Collection Site
- 4) Agenda Items
  - a. Presentation and Discussion on Energy Plan  
Dan Streit of Slipstream introduced the draft of the Energy Plan for the Village. Streit indicated he was looking for feedback from the SNR committee on the plan. Streit added he previously received input from Beth Carlson of WPPI Energy on how the Village's Contract for energy purchases worked with WPPI for community solar projects and that language was reflected in the current draft. The committee discussed the need for a purchasing policy for consideration of EV or sustainable options for vehicles and equipment, planning for EV charging at facilities to support EV's, upgrading facilities to LED and occupancy sensors, solar installations and budgeting for upgrades. The committee also discussed an education campaign to make citizens aware of funding opportunities and having a discussion with WPPI and Focus on Energy to make sure we are optimizing these opportunities.
  - b. Bird City Application Approval  
Beheler introduced the resolution required for participating, designating May 9th as World Migratory Bird Day and noting that the Bird City fee has been paid, so we are officially in the program. Motion by Beheler to recommend approval of the resolution, seconded by Saltes. Motion

carried. The resolution will go to the Village Board for approval at their January 7th meeting. Beheler reviewed the application material with the committee, noting that after Village Board approval of the Resolution, she will enter it on the Bird City website. The Bird City staff has reviewed the current application and determined we have the 9 points needed for acceptance into the program. Her goal is to get 22 points to reach High Flyer status. Consensus of the committee was that they were comfortable with submittal of the application, and they thanked Beheler for all her work on this program.

c. Review of Proposed Landscape Standards for Village Zoning Code Rewrite

Administrator Owen introduced the proposed landscaping standards for the revised zoning code. The new standards would be applied to buildings and parking lots where the old code was just applied to parking lots. The standards are built off a point system where points are awarded for the species of plant proposed in the landscape plan. In the new code, existing desirable species preserved would be worth 2 times the points and new native species would be worth 1.5 times the points. Any recommendations or comments from this committee would be presented to the Plan Commission for consideration of amending the proposed code.

The committee was excited to see the inclusion and prioritization of native species. They discussed the multiplier and points given for natives. Grabe will discuss with some master gardeners on the Green Team and provide feedback at the next meeting. Consensus of the Committee was they would like to see the multiplier for native species increase to 2x and increased points for native grasses.

d. Sustainability Plan Update

Slates reported that the Nelson Institute was not able to assist with the Sustainability Plan. The other option available would be the UniverCity Alliance Program, which would cost a minimum of \$5,000. The committee discussed funding options and other options to lead the drafting of the plan. Administrator Owen said he would reach out to UniverCity Alliance for clarification on the program cost.

e. Approval of SNR Related Memberships

1. Wisconsin Green Tier Legacy Communities (GTLC) Network  
White introduced the Green Tier Legacy Communities Network to the group. There is no cost to join. The first step is reaching out to the program staff to discuss what the program entails, then, if appropriate, the municipality will need to adopt a resolution committing to join the program. Once approved to join the program, we would be able to network with other Green Tier Communities and have consideration for select state

grants, notifications and opportunities for joint grant applications, an assigned DNR Liaison and free technical support from Green Tier Staff. One of the only annual requirements is submittal of an annual report highlighting the sustainability goals for the upcoming year and sustainability performance for the previous year, which fits into the tasks the SNR Committee already accomplishes.

The consensus of the committee was that the Green Tier Program fits well into the SNR's Goals and is a potential pathway to developing a Sustainability Plan. Motion by Beheler to recommend approving the membership, seconded by Best. Motion carried.

2. Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition

White introduced the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition membership, a group of Wisconsin municipalities and counties that advocate for clean energy and climate change solutions in Wisconsin. There is no fee for membership, but membership requires attendance, generally by a staff member at monthly meetings and events. The committee had discussed this membership at a previous meeting and were in favor of joining. Motion by Roethele to recommend approval of the Climate Coalition Membership, seconded by Beheler. Motion carried.

3. Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) Membership

White reported that Scott Lind, the gentleman that provided direction on the dark sky standards for our proposed lighting ordinance, informed him that membership of the IES is not needed to purchase the IES standards, so this membership is no longer needed.

5) Future Agenda Items

Agenda items for future meetings include: Approval of the final Energy Plan, Update on the Sustainability Plan, Report on Green Tier Membership, Bird City Update, Landscaping Plan Update/Discussion, Newspaper Column on 2025 progress, Bike Friendly City Update.

6) Meeting adjournment.

Motion by Best to adjourn, seconded by Roethele. Motion carried.