

Village of Cross Plains Sustainability Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
6:00 pm

This meeting was conducted virtually.

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Agenda Review

The meeting of the Sustainability Committee was called to order at 6:03 pm.

Present: Melissa Gavin, John Burandt, Kevin Thusius, and Steve Douglas

Also Present – Village Administrator Brian Mooney and Village Trustee Michael Pomykalski

II. Public Comment – John Burandt briefed the Committee that he has been appointed a lead for the upcoming Zander Park clean-up initiative in advance of the Village’s Trout Days event.

III. General Business

1. Committee Member Report Outs and Updates

John Burandt briefed the Committee that he has been appointed a lead for the upcoming Zander Park clean-up initiative in advance of the Village’s Trout Days event.

2. Discussion and Possible Approval of the February 23, 2023 Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Steve Douglas, seconded by John Burandt, and unanimously carried by the Sustainability Committee, to approve the February 23, 2023 minutes.

3. Discussion of Sustainability Plan Implementation

Mrs. Gavin provided a review of the recent Village Board Meeting discussion related to the Sustainability Committee’s Energy Audit Resolution. The Committee agreed it was a good starting point for a Village Resolution targeting climate change, and provides the framework for future Village Board topics and requests.

Mrs. Gavin next discussed her recent meeting with representatives from the Focus on Energy to hold a future presentation within the Village regarding energy efficiency and current program incentives available to Village residents. Mrs. Gavin will look to coordinate this event on a weeknight at the Village Library.

Mrs. Gavin next covered a few of the initiatives within the Village's Sustainability Plan related to the Village's Zoning and Building Codes and review of the Village's Comprehensive Plan for determining areas of targeted improvement. Kevin Thusius stated he would be willing to assist the Committee in a review of the Village's Comprehensive Plan.

4. No Mow May-Education and Preparation

Committee members discussed last year's No Mow May initiative, and areas for potential changes in 2023. Steve Douglas stated municipalities like Madison opted to modify their initiative based on science studies related to mowing frequency and its impact on bee varieties and population impacts. Scientists were able to study the variables with mowing frequency and its impact on insect populations, and thereby encourage different mowing lengths and frequency of mowing. Upon discussion, the Committee was receptive to different approaches with mowing frequency and lawn lengths for participants in the 2023 initiative. Mr. Mooney stated he would reach out to Latitude Graphics within the Village to confirm availability of signage production for 2023, as well as an option for "Low Mow May" stickers that could identify different participants within the community. The Committee will be presenting their No Mow May Resolution before the Village Board during the March Village Board Meeting.

5. Upcoming changes to Sustainability Committee

Mrs. Gavin inquired about the status of the Committee's upcoming change to a Standing Committee and the impact on the Chair and members. Mr. Mooney stated he would confirm the official date of the new Standing Committee and share this update with the group.

6. Wrap Up, Next Steps and Future Meetings

Mrs. Gavin provided a brief recap on the evening's discussion and new Committee leads on certain topics.

Next Meeting Wednesday April 12th.

IV. Adjournment

A motion was made by John Burandt, seconded by Steve Douglas, and unanimously carried by the Sustainability Committee, to adjourn the meeting at 7:21pm.

This meeting notice constitutes an official meeting of the above referenced group and was posted in accordance with all applicable laws related Open Meetings Law. It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals. For additional information or to request this service, contact the Village Hall at (608) 798-3241 or bmooney@cross-plains.wi.us