

## AGENDA

### **SUSTAINABLE NEENAH COMMITTEE TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021 5:30 P.M.**

**Due to the Public Health Emergency caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting will occur at a virtual location accessed by computer or conference call. Committee members and the public should use the following web link/call-in information:**

**Web Link:** <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/645245949>

**Conference Telephone Number:** +1 (646) 749-3122

**Access Code:** 645-245-949

**City Hall Hauser Room**– For members of the public that are unable to access this meeting via web or conference call, the Hauser Room will be open in a limited capacity for those wishing to attend the meeting. Please note that social distancing measures will be in place to protect meeting participants.

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Public Appearances. (Ten minutes divided among those wishing to speak on topics pertinent to the Sustainable Neenah Committee.)
- 3) Approve minutes of the March 23, 2021 meeting.
- 4) Discuss Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.  
<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/carbon-pricing-congress/>
- 5) Discuss education/information projects.
- 6) Approval of expenditures.
- 7) Announcements and future agenda items.

*“Our mission is to identify and foster economically feasible energy conservation and efficiency measures; to promote recycling, waste reduction, and use of renewable resources; to increase public awareness and access to new and existing sustainability programs and services; and to be conscientious stewards of our city.”*

Neenah City Hall is accessible to the physically disadvantaged. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the Neenah Community Development Office at 886-6125 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

**Minutes of the Sustainable Neenah Committee**  
**Tuesday, March 23, 2021**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Committee Co-Chair Carol Kasimor and Committee members Tyler Jefferson, Dennis Kittel, Kent Powley, Dave Rause, and Jim Wise. **Also Present:** Dr. Israel Del Toro, Lawrence University, and Kate Hancock Cooke, 216 Bosworth Court.

**Public Appearances:**

Dr. Del Toro was present to discuss the No Mow May proposal.

Kate Hancock Cooke explained that she has been working with the Citizens' Climate Lobby, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy climate change organization focused on national policies to address climate change. Ms. Cooke, a previous member of the Sustainable Neenah Committee, had presented information to the committee regarding the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, H. R. 2307, the "carbon cash back bill." A presentation on the bill has been made to the Neenah Common Council, and the Council has asked for comments regarding the bill from the SNC.

**Approval of meeting minutes:**

MSC Wise, Powley, the minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting were approved as distributed.

**Discussion of No Mow May proposal:**

Pollenablers – Fox Cities and Dr. Del Toro contacted the Neenah Common Council, requesting that the City ordinance requiring the mowing of grass that is 8" in length or longer be suspended during the month of May to promote the seasonal growth of pollinators.

Dr. Del Toro explained that the delaying of mowing in the spring provides an opportunity for grass to set deeper roots and other plants to flower so that pollinators increase in abundance and diversity. The voluntary effort by the 400 – 500 Appleton residents who participated in 2020 showed 5 times greater abundance and 3 times greater diversity over park land that had been mown conventionally. Residents had a variety of experiences with the initiative, and cut their lawns depending on lawn growth and their ability. Though a cutting period extending into June was requested in Appleton this year, a 3 week growing and a 1 week cutting period in May is being promoted.

Committee members and Dr. Del Toro discussed disposal of clippings as a result of longer growing times. Shorter clippings may compost into the lawn, while longer clippings may be composted on residents' own compost sites on lawns. Community garden compost sites such as at Lawrence University may be an option for disposal with permission. The City drop-off site does not accept this material, and the Winnebago County landfill charges for drop-off.

Committee members concurred, should City staff be able to manage the No Mow May initiative this year that the initiative be conducted on a trial basis, with a limited number of registrations and continued mowing of the terrace area, on non-commercial and non-industrial properties. Participants would have to plan for the appropriate disposal of lawn clippings.

**Discussion of education and information projects:**

Committee members made the following suggestions for presentations at the Neenah Farm Market:

- Plexus environmental health and safety staff providing sustainability information
- Recycling, including information about what can be placed for City recycling pick-up
- Gardens that attract pollinators, involving master gardeners
- Natural land and soil care
- Drinking water and storm water, rain barrels
- Composting
- Biking, bike care

MSC Rause, Kittel, the Committee approved sponsorship of the Neenah Farm Market in the amount of \$1,000 with a minimum of 5 opportunities for market booth presentations.

Committee member Jim Wise reported that he was working with WE Energies regarding LED street lighting in the City.

**Announcements and future agenda items:**

The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act will be discussed at a future meeting.

**Adjournment:** MSC Wise, Powley, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Kasimor, Assistant Planner