



## AGENDA

### **SUSTAINABLE NEENAH COMMITTEE MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019 – 5:30 P.M.**

**Hauser Committee Room, City Administration Building**

*“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.”*

- 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 July 23, 2018, September 24, 2018, and October 22, 2018 meetings.
- 4) Update on Container Gardening program at Ascend Initiative, 990 Apple Blossom Drive, Neenah (Kim Miller, UW Extension Horticulture Educator)
- 5) Discussion of 2019 education and information activities.  
Solar Energy program – Monday, February 25, 2019, 6:30 p.m. Neenah Public Library
- 6) Approval of expenditures.
- 7) Announcements and future agenda items.

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**  
**Monday, July 23, 2018**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Committee members Laurie Case, Morgan Cottrell, Peter Feters, Co-Chair Carol Kasimor, Co-Chair Christopher Kunz, Kent Powley, Josh Preissner, **Also Present:** Kate Hancock-Cooke, Jill Mitchler, and Jill Hiroskey, Citizens' Climate Lobby.

**Approval of meeting minutes:**

MSC Feters, Preissner, the minutes of the June 25, 2018 meeting were approved as distributed.

**Presentation on Citizens' Climate Lobby:**

Kate Hancock-Cooke, Jill Mitchler, and Jill Hiroskey discussed the proposal of the Citizens' Climate Lobby. The organization is non-profit and non-partisan, and proposes a carbon fee and dividend. The program is a revenue-neutral carbon tax with 100% of the net revenue returned directly to households, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 52% below 1990 levels within 20 years. The proposal aims to also grow the economy and save lives. More information can be found at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>.

**Discussion of 2018 education and information activities:**

Tree Program – Committee members discussed future tree programs. A program to distribute perennial plants, possibly in collaboration with Wild Ones, was also discussed.

Container Gardening – The program at Ascend Initiative will be completed in August.

Farm Market presentations - Wild Ones presented information on June 30, Homeless Connections presented on July 7, and Master Gardeners will have a presentation on Jumping Worms on August 18.

Committee members discussed having a presentation on recycling and the new trash and recycling containers at the market.

**Adjournment:** MSC Feters, Case, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Kasimor, Assistant Planner

**Minutes of the Sustainable Neenah Committee**  
**Monday, September 24, 2018**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Committee members Laurie Case, Co-Chair Carol Kasimor, Dustin Kraft, Co-Chair Christopher Kunz, and Kent Powley. **Also Present:** Amy Kester.

A quorum was not present; no action was taken.

**Discussion of 2018 education and information activities:**

Committee members discussed the tree and container gardening programs. The final class in the container gardening program at the Ascend Initiative will be held when the kitchen addition is completed.

Committee member Kent Powley is preparing information regarding recycling for a Farmers Market in October.

Other possible areas of involvement were discussed, including solar energy education and vertical indoor hydroponic farming technology such as that being developed by Fork Farms in Menasha.

**Announcements and future agenda items:**

Stormwater issues will be discussed by the City of Neenah Public Works Department at an upcoming meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Kasimor, Assistant Planner

**Minutes of the Sustainable Neenah Committee**  
**Monday, October 22, 2018**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Committee members Laurie Case, Morgan Cottrell, Co-Chair Carol Kasimor, Co-Chair Christopher Kunz, and Kent Powley. **Also Present:** Gil Shaw, Fork Farms, Menasha.

A quorum was not present; no action was taken.

**Update on vertical indoor hydroponic farming technology:**

Gil Shaw, Fork Farms, presented information on the development of their controlled-environment agriculture system. Their modular, compact and patented "grow machine" is energy, water, space and labor efficient. Leafy greens are the primary crop at this time, and the growing of other food is being tested. Currently, 100 systems are operating in Wisconsin, with many located in schools, medical facilities, nonprofits, food pantries, and corporations.

More information: <https://forkfarms.com/faq/>

**Discussion of 2018 education and information activities:**

Committee members discussed scheduling a solar energy education presentation at the Neenah Public Library.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Kasimor, Assistant Planner

## The Ascend Initiative Growing Together Project

**Abstract:** Interactive cooking and container gardening classes for young adults (ages 18-25) in The Ascend Initiative where participants learned basic cooking gardening lessons while gaining life skills such as working with others, being on time, following directions, and decision making in order to help them transition to an adulthood of self-sufficiency and stability.

**Summary:** Winnebago County UW-Extension (FoodWise, Horticulture, and Master Gardener Volunteer (MGVS) programs) partnered with The Ascend Initiative to provide a series of cooking and gardening classes to participants of the program. The Ascend Initiative provides a supportive foundation for young adults, aged 18-25 who have a mental health challenge, to navigate their transition from adolescences to an adulthood of self-sufficiency and stability.

Throughout the classes, FoodWise provided the cooking lessons, while the horticulture educator and Master Gardener Volunteers provided the gardening lessons. The cooking and gardening classes were coordinated to complement each other. While the teaching emphasis was on these subjects, an additional focus was placed on participants gaining life skills such as working with others, being on time, following directions, and decision making. Containers were planted by apartment (4) and vegetables grown will be for the good of everyone involved to encourage working together. In addition, by having the responsibility of maintaining the plants over the course of summer they gain experience in taking care of something other than themselves.

In the first class, the cooking lesson focused on proper knife skills and making homemade salads and salad dressing. This complimented the gardening lesson where participants learned how to grow vegetables from seed. Participants could choose from many seeds including lettuce, spinach, radish, beets, and cucumbers.

In the second class, the cooking lesson focused on food safety and making recipes; mini pizzas and fruit infused water. This compliments the gardening lesson on planting and care of herbs. Participants could choose from herbs such as basil, cilantro, and mint.

In the third class, the participants continued the gardening lesson of planting vegetables in containers. They could choose from a range of peppers and tomatoes which built off the prior cooking lesson. By this class, participants were able to harvest vegetables they had planted from seed to make a salad and had 24 successful containers to harvest throughout the summer.

The program had plans to continue with a fourth class in late summer/fall. The class was going to be a time for the participants to share stories, celebrate their success, and vision for the future. Due to weather setbacks in constructing a new kitchen on site, this class ended up being planned for December. Then unfortunately due to circumstances out of our control this session had to be canceled. We currently trying to reschedule this session

For 2019, all parties are still planning on continuing the effort and there is hopes that the project can be expanded moving forward.