

AGENDA

SUSTAINABLE NEENAH COMMITTEE MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019 – 5:30 P.M.

**Hauser Committee Room, City Administration Building
211 Walnut Street, Neenah**

- 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 previous meetings.
- 4) Discussion of 2019 education/information and future projects.
 - a) Neenah Farm Market
- 5) Update on potential Solar Energy 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
Monday, June 24, 2019
5:30 p.m.

Present: Committee Co-Chairs Carol Kasimor and Christopher Kunz, and Committee member Kent Powley.

A quorum was not present; no action was taken.

Update on solar energy presentation and next steps:

Committee members discussed providing information to the Common Council regarding a solar project at a municipal location.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Kasimor, Assistant Planner

Minutes of the Sustainable Neenah Committee
Monday, April 22, 2019
5:30 p.m.

Present: Committee Co-Chairs Carol Kasimor and Christopher Kunz, and Committee members Morgan Cottrell, Amy Kester, Kent Powley, and Dave Rouse. **Also Present:** Kathy and John Peterson, 129 Fifth Street, and Bev Johnston, 1010 Congress Street.

A quorum was not present; no action was taken.

Public Appearances: Kathy and John Peterson and Bev Johnston from St. Thomas Church brought up their concerns about their meal program's use of Styrofoam containers, and inquired about ideas to reduce their use.

Discussion of 2019 education and information activities:

The Neenah Farm Market will be held between June 15 and October 19. Committee members are finding presenters for topics including pollinators, residential solar, composting, alternative lawn care, and stormwater issues.

Update on solar energy presentation and next steps:

Research continues on a potential Neenah Public Library installation. Committee member Amy Kester forwarded information on a grant opportunity for solar installation at libraries, which local library staff is reviewing.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Kasimor, Assistant Planner

Minutes of the Sustainable Neenah Committee
Monday, March 25, 2019
5:30 p.m.

Present: Committee Co-Chairs Carol Kasimor and Christopher Kunz, and Committee members Amy Kester, Dustin Kraft, and Kent Powley. **Also Present:** Kate Hancock-Cooke, 216 Bosworth Court, Neenah.

A quorum was not present; no action was taken.

Public Appearances: Kate Hancock-Cooke updated the committee on the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/763>

Discussion of 2018 education and information activities:

Sponsorship of the Neenah Farm Market is \$1,000, with 10 dates available for educational presentations. Possible topics suggested by committee members include composting, beekeeping and pollinators, alternative lawn care, keeping of chickens and goats, residential solar, rain barrels, and companion planting.

Update on solar energy presentation and next steps:

Committee members discussed potential solar projects at City facilities. Further research will be undertaken on a library installation. Committee member Amy Kester will explore grant opportunities.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Kasimor, Assistant Planner

Minutes of the Sustainable Neenah Committee
Monday, February 25, 2019
5:30 p.m.

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

A quorum was not present; no action was taken.

Update on Container Gardening program:

The UW Extension Horticulture Educator could not be present due to weather conditions. There will be follow-up later in the year should a request be made for a 2019 project.

Discussion of 2018 education and information activities:

Committee members discussed potential solar projects at City facilities. A public presentation on solar energy was scheduled for that evening with Patrick Nahm of Appleton Solar. The committee will have further discussions with Appleton Solar about City projects.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 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

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, 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