

Minutes of the Sustainable Neenah Committee
Wednesday, July 26, 2023
5:30 P.M.
Hauser Committee Room, City Administration Building
and GoToMeeting

Present: Committee Co-Chairs Alderman Cari Lendrum and Carol Kasimor, and Committee members Dennis Kittel, Kent Powley, Tayler Roal, and Jim Wise. **Also Present:** Brad Schmidt, Deputy Director of Community Development.

Public appearances: No public appearances.

Approval of minutes of the June 28, 2023 meeting:

MSC Wise, Kittel, the minutes of the June 28, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.

Discussion of City of Neenah residential gardening and related structures:

Deputy Director Brad Schmidt explained that the Zoning Code allows temporary structures up to 200 square feet in size in residential zones for a period of 90 days, which may include a structure related to gardening. Other communities' zoning codes are being reviewed regarding gardening structures.

Committee member Dennis Kittel reviewed information he had gathered regarding urban agriculture. Commercial farming in communities ranges from not being allowed to being allowed with a special use permit with extensive requirements and inspections to protect residents and the environment. Committee members discussed the demand for garden plots, and committee members recommended that urban agriculture be explored as a special use in the City.

Discussion of Education/Information projects:

Rain Barrel project:

Two rain barrel fixture kits were received. Committee members discussed the date for the demonstration of a rain barrel and its assembly at the Neenah Farmers Market, and the availability of committee members for preparation prior to the market. August 12 was suggested as the Farmers Market presentation date.

Farmers Market presentations:

July 22 – Recycling information was presented by Kent and Carol. There was quite a bit of interest in the Better Bin app and the Waste Wizard on the Tri-County Recycling website.

August 5 - Solar energy information to be presented by Kent and Appleton Solar.

August 12 – Rain barrels

August or September – Biking information to be presented by Dennis, with sponsorship assistance by Dave Rause and Valley Management Inc.

Special Event Recycling:

No further action has been taken. It was noted that plastic bottle recycling is being undertaken at the Neenah Farmers Market. There was further discussion on the pros and cons of aluminum cups.

Approval of Expenditures:

No expenditures.

Announcements and future agenda items:

Recycling and composting at special events

Branding ideas

Strategic Planning

Adjournment: MSC Powley, Wise, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Kasimor, Assistant Planner