

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

SUSTAINABLE GRAFTON AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 18, 2009

The Sustainable Grafton Ad-Hoc Committee meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Rick Flood.

Members present: Rick Flood, Pamela Atterberry, Laura Weber, Jim Brunnuell, Paul Van de Sand, and Roger Kirgues (4:28 p.m.).

Members absent: John Gassert and Ginny Plumeau.

Staff/Officials present: Director of Public Works/Village Engineer Dave Murphy and Administrative Assistant Melissa Depies.

PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD

None

MINUTES

Motion by Jim Brunnuell, seconded by Paul Van de Sand, to approve the October 21, 2009, Sustainable Grafton Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes as presented. Approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

One-2-Five Energy Management Assessment

Paul Van de Sand explained that there are some reporting issues with the assessment system. He requested additional time to obtain all reports and necessary information.

Sustainability Guide Plan

Rick Flood noted that four additional sections of the Guide Plan have been completed. They are Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Waste Minimization and Recycling, Reduction of Use and Safe Disposal of Hazardous Materials, and Integrated Pest Management.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Mr. Flood changed the introduction statement to more accurately reflect the goals.

Director of Public Works/Village Engineer Dave Murphy questioned what greenhouse gases the Village would have. Mr. Flood responded that fleet use is one example of greenhouse gases.

Paul Van de Sand stated that there are six gases that are considered when analyzing greenhouse gases. We Energies can provide definitions and formulas on how to calculate and/or tabulate them.

Mr. Flood stated that strategy B is basically tracking fuel used in Village vehicles and C is developing a strategy to reduce fuel usage.

Mr. Van de Sand questioned what would be the appropriate department or staff member for implementation and how the annual cost will be determined. Mr. Flood responded that once this plan is substantially completed, he would like to meet with all Department Heads to determine what is feasible and who would be responsible for what.

Mr. Flood did not include any funding sources at this time. He would like someone to do a grant search for funding partners and other funding resources.

Waste Minimization and Recycling: Mr. Flood again simplified the introduction statement.

Director of Public Works/Village Engineer Dave Murphy stated that when information about recycling is sent to property owners the amount of recycling generally increases. We have found that recycling tonnage usually goes up after a newsletter is published.

Mr. Flood explained the proposed strategies and questioned if it would be feasible to contract with a private hauler to collect recyclables from the parks. Mr. Murphy explained that currently the Village has clear stream recycling containers in the parks and Village crews are responsible for changing the bags as well as collecting the trash and recycling. Mr. Brunquell did not believe there would be enough volume from the parks to interest a hauler.

Mr. Flood commented that he placed EPP best practices purchasing here for lack of a better place. The word locally does not restrict the purchaser to the Village of Grafton it can mean the State of Wisconsin. Local will need to be defined in the document.

Reduction of Use and Safe Disposal of Hazardous Materials: Mr. Murphy noted that the Promote Green statement refers to a hazardous waste collection facility being made available to all residents; however, the Village does not have a facility. The nearest facility is Veolia Environmental Services in Port Washington.

It was suggested that the word “promote” be inserted before use and delete “will be made available to all residents” so the sentence would read “Promote use of a household hazardous waste collection facility.” It was also suggested that this be placed as a strategy rather than part of the introduction statement.

Integrated Pest Management: Mr. Brunnquell questioned if this conflicts with greenhouse gases, does one offset the other. Is it better to mow more often and use less herbicide, or is it better to use more herbicides and mow less often. He questioned which is more environmentally friendly.

Mr. Murphy stated that the medians are treated semi-annually by a contractor for weed and dandelion control. Village crews use very little herbicides and do not use pesticides.

Laura Weber questioned if this was geared to outdoor management only or should the statement be changed to include indoor control. Mr. Flood suggested sticking to just outdoor controls for now.

There was discussion on what the correct height was for grass. By letting the grass grow a little longer you can choke out weeds and create a thicker grass; however, will this result in more complaints about the grass being too long. Park and Recreation Director John Safstrom should be included in grass cutting discussions as he is responsible for mowing the parks and boulevards.

There was some discussion on items in the guide plan that are already being done. It was determined that these activities should remain in the plan as something that is achieved and as a positive. It can be a tool to let others know what we are doing as well as what we are striving for.

Pam Atterberry presented performance indicators for the Education section. This was the only information missing last month when this section was presented. She noted that dates are tentative.

NEW BUSINESS

Wisconsin Green & Healthy Schools Program

Pam Atterberry indicated that the Grafton School District has joined the Wisconsin Green and Healthy Schools Program. Grafton is the only school in Ozaukee County that is participating in the program. Step 1 has been completed and they are now working on Step 2, which they anticipate will take a full year to complete. There will be a day in the month of December that the students will take a field trip within the school where they will go thru the garbage and determine if it is a recyclable material or not. She asked Mr. Murphy if he would be available to make a presentation to the students.

Roger Kirgues stated that there will be an Energy Utilization and Sustainability forum in February 2010, held at MATC North Campus. He questioned if the Village would be interested in participating. We could just be part of the discussion and let others know what we are doing. Mr. Brunnquell stated that there are no budgeted funds for anything formal in 2010.

Ms. Weber liked the idea of looking for partners in this program. Mr. Brunnquell suggested that the Village partner with the Chamber and organize a tour of green facilities in the Village.

Mr. Flood noted that there are five more sections that need to be completed. Mr. Brunnquell volunteered to work with Utility Director Tom Krueger on the Water portion of the plan.

Laura Weber volunteered to research the web for possible additional partners.

Due to conflicting schedules the December meeting will be cancelled and the Committee will meet again on January 20, 2010.

ADJOURN

Motion by Jim Brunnquell, seconded by Paul Van de Sand, to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 p.m. Approved unanimously.