

## VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

### SUSTAINABLE GRAFTON AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 21, 2009

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

Members present: Rick Flood, Paul Van de Sand (4:10), John Gassert, Laura Weber, Ginny Plumeau (4:10), Pamela Atterberry, Roger Kirgues (4:10), and Jim Brunnuell.

Staff/Officials present: Village Administrator Darrell Hofland (4:06), Director of Public Works/Village Engineer Dave Murphy, Planner I Mary Kay Buratto, and Administrative Assistant Melissa Depies.

Others present: Scott Volkert.

#### **PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD**

Scott Volkert introduced himself as a Village Trustee as well as a sales representative from Newman Chevrolet. He indicated that he was the person who was trying to get the Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV) approved for use in Grafton. The proposal was rejected by the Village Board because the Village did not want to be involved with the licensing of these vehicles and the Board did not think the vehicles were safe for road use as they appeared to be glorified golf carts. Mr. Volkert informed the Committee that the state is now the licensing entity for these vehicles; therefore more and more municipalities are accepting them. He also noted that the NEV style has improved and is now more like a car than a golf cart.

Mr. Volkert stated that he would be happy to arrange a presentation on these vehicles. He could schedule a public showing with the manufacturer if interested.

Mr. Volkert distributed a packet of information regarding the use of alternative fuel vehicles as squad cars. Recent studies have determined that the Chevrolet Impala is more fuel efficient than the Ford Crown Victoria, which is currently used as a police vehicle.

John Gassert questioned if the NEV was being proposed for the Village or for individuals. Mr. Volkert stated that it would be purchased by individuals and licensed by the State.

Rick Flood explained that this Committee is creating a policy for the Village to promote becoming a more sustainable community. Even though the NEV is a sustainable item, he does not believe that this Committee has the authority to approve or deny use of such vehicle in the Village. This Committee is creating the policy and making recommendations on how to achieve those goals.

## **MINUTES**

Motion by Roger Kirgues, seconded by John Gassert, to approve the December 17, 2008, Sustainable Grafton Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE:**

Rick Flood presented a Draft Sustainability Policy Guidelines with the changes as discussed and recommended at the December meeting. The plan also includes additional language, as recommended by John Gassert regarding transportation.

John Gassert questioned where the reduction and elimination of herbicide use would fall into this policy. Rick Flood stated that herbicide use would fit into Section IX – Integrated Pest Management.

Ginny Plumeau indicated that she recently reviewed a LEED book that has a section that refers to the reduction and elimination of fertilizers. The information provided may be too much for what the Village needs; however, it could be used as a guideline.

Village Administrator Hofland questioned if the Transportation section; Build Green, should incorporate the term “multimodal”. Mr. Gassert responded that he does not like that term as it then refers to all motorized vehicles including mopeds and motorcycles. This section encourages walking and the use of bicycles or other non-motorized ways of transit.

Ginny Plumeau questioned if the Village wanted to permit or encourage the use of mopeds. Director of Public Works/Village Engineer Murphy responded that mopeds provide good gas mileage; however, they have very bad emissions.

Rick Flood stated that the only section left to be reviewed is Education. He questioned if this section should be expanded and contain more information. Paul Van de Sand and Roger Kirgues stated that they like the general statement as training opportunities and education requirements can change frequently.

Jim Brunnuell stated that all other topics stay pretty static; however, education is constantly changing. This section should stay more generic so the policy does not have to constantly be reviewed and updated. He suggested that the education components could be listed and updated on the website.

Ginny Plumeau stated that she would draft a paragraph pertaining to education for review.

Rick Flood noted that the next step in the process is to recommend this document to the Village Board for approval. As a result of this document, some Village ordinances may need to be amended to accept these policies. He questioned if the Committee should submit the policy now or start reviewing the ordinances and submit the policy and all ordinances changes as one large document.

John Gassert replied that this policy should be submitted for approval and Village staff should assist with reviewing the ordinances.

Jim Brunquell stated that he would like to see this document completed and approved. Once approved each department can review and provide feed back on the portions that affect their department operations.

Village Administrator Hofland stated that Village staff will be working on 2010 Capital Improvement Budgets soon and this document would assist staff in including sustainability into their planning.

John Gassert questioned if waiting one more month so the Committee could fine tune the policy before sending it to the Village Board would be too late for the budgeting process. Mr. Hofland responded yes it would be too late.

Motion by John Gassert, seconded by Paul Van de Sand, to recommend the Village Board approve the Sustainability Policy Guidelines for the Village of Grafton with the minor revisions made at this meeting.  
Approved unanimously.

Mary Kay Buratto stated that the policy has all the main information. A disclaimer paragraph could be added at the bottom stating that the plan will be implemented and reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

#### **RIVEREDGE NATURE CENTER PARTNERSHIP: 2009 SUSTAINABILITY FORUM:**

Laura Weber stated that there is no update at this time. However, the Sustainability Forum event may be an appropriate place for a presentation on the NEV.

Ginny Plumeau stated that if the vendors get an opportunity to show their sustainable products they may also financially support the event.

#### **STAFF TRAINING FOR SUSTAINABILITY:**

Rick Flood stated that he has no new information for this item. He noted that the item was originally tabled for later discussion and he would like to take it off the table.

Mr. Flood stated that the Village will need to determine how much staff time will be designated to sustainability. This determination will drive how much time is spent on staff training. The City of Milwaukee added a staff person to handle all sustainable matters.

John Gassert suggested that the Villages of Grafton and Saukville and the Cities of Cedarburg and Port Washington share staff time to learn and promote sustainable matters.

Jim Brunnuell noted that the Village is in the process of becoming branded and the branding does have a sustainable component. Each Village project and process must have a sustainable component; we just need to determine how to get these things implemented.

It was the consensus that this matter be removed from future agendas until such time that there is more information.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### INITIAL REPORT ON AND DISCUSSION OF STATE OF WISCONSIN OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE: ENERGY INDEPENDENT COMMUNITIES:

Director of Public Works/Village Engineer Murphy stated that he has completed some research on communities becoming less energy dependent. He distributed information titled: "Energy Independent Communities is a voluntary agreement between the state and communities that adopt the Wisconsin 25x25 goals."

Mr. Murphy stated that there is a 25x25 Plan Grant available to help communities plan for these initiatives. He will be drafting a resolution for the next meeting to get approval for the 25x25 initiative.

Rick Flood questioned if this Committee was interested in a demonstration on the NEV as presented by Mr. Volkert earlier this meeting. John Gassert stated that he would prefer to have him involved with the Riveredge program.

Ginny Plumeau stated that the sustainable idea will be better promoted if we can provide people a visual. Examples would be like the NEV, or carpet made from recycled fibers, deck material made from recycled plastic, etc. and provide statistics like you save X number of trees when you build your deck with recycled plastic rather than with lumber and you divert X number of plastic bottles from the landfill at the same time.

Village Administrator Hofland reminded the Committee members that the Village does not allow the NEV on any Village streets at this time.

It was the consensus that a demonstration on the NEV would not be beneficial at this time; however, information regarding the Riveredge forum will be forwarded to Mr. Volkert.

Village Administrator Hofland stated that budget figures have been presented for the renovation of the new Village Hall building. To make the building LEED Platinum certified the cost would be approximately an additional \$526,000 and to make the building LEED Silver certified there would be approximately an additional cost of \$75,000.

Rick Flood questioned if the cost to become LEED Gold certified has been considered. Jim Brunnquell stated that taking the building to the LEED Silver level is already over the Village's budget for the renovation of this building. A payback presentation will be done at the February 2, 2009 Finance Committee meeting for a determination on whether or not the LEED designation will be pursued.

Paul Van de Sand stated that We Energies does not provide grant monies for municipal use as the Public Service Commission does not allow it; however, Focus on Energy may have some funds available if a project application is made and the project is eligible.

Village Administrator Hofland informed the Committee that with the approval of the 2009 budget, the Village Board has authorized the Village to move forward with Johnson Controls for HVAC and lighting updates in some of the buildings to save energy.

Rick Flood noted that when this Committee was formed in March, 2008, Pam Atterberry, John Gassert, and Roger Kirgues were only appointed for a 6 month term, which would have expired in September 2008. Jim Brunnquell, Rick Flood, Ginny Plumeau, and Laura Weber were all appointed for a 1 year term and Paul Van de Sand was added with no term limits on June 16. He questioned if all members were willing to accept another appointment to this Committee. All were in agreement.

#### **ADJOURN**

Motion by Roger Kirgues, seconded by John Gassert, to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Approved unanimously.