

Minutes
Sustainability & Natural Resources
Committee Meeting
January 8, 2024

Members Present: Mike Flaherty, Carolyn Clow, Angela Freedman, Judy Taber (6:15 p.m.)

Members Absent: Kitty Brussock, Bruce Fischer, Nina Schultz

Staff Present: Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent; Kong Thao, associate planner; Phil McDade, utility clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Flaherty called the meeting to order at 6:16 PM.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

No public appearances.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. Clow motioned to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023, Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting. Seconded by Freedman. Motion carried 4-0.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. **Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding design services for lake access at Lewis Park.**

Larson discussed with the committee plans to enhance access to Lower Mud Lake from Lewis Park via a boardwalk, canoe/kayak launch, and other improvements near the park shelter. Construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2024. Motion by Freedman, seconded by Taber, to recommend to the Village Board design services for lake access at Lewis Park. Motion carried 4-0.

- b. **Discussion of 2023 forestry operations and 2024 outlook (moved from item c).**

Larson highlighted the 2023 Department of Public Works forestry operations, including: more than 100 trees removed; more than 800 street and park trees trimmed; and 132 village park and street trees planted. Larson said recent initiatives by the Village Board to provide separate budget categories for tree planting, as well as tree removal and trimming, has helped provide certainty to the village's forestry operations and maintenance.

c. Discussion regarding 2023 sustainability and natural resources initiatives and 2024-2025 Sustainability Action Plan.

Thao reviewed progress on the village's sustainability initiatives, including: development of an eight-acre solar farm project in conjunction with the McFarland School District and Alliant Energy; the debut of a No Mow May program with signs, with 60 initial registrants; and construction of a net-zero energy usage Public Safety Center.

d. Discussion on Public Safety Center Battery Storage and Microgrid technology.

Thao discussed a proposed battery storage project with the committee, and how it can be utilized at the Public Safety Building (PSC) to both store energy and potentially distribute it. The village is working with its energy and sustainability consultants to determine the best way to hook up the battery to the PSC.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

- a. Monday, Feb. 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Clow motioned to adjourn; Freedman seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.