

**VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM  
GREEN TIER AD-HOC COMMITTEE WORKING SESSION MINUTES  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024 – 8:00 AM - 9996 WATER STREET**



**Present:** Jeff Lutsey, Michael McCutcheon, Bruce Nelson, Lane Methner, Jeff O’Keefe. and Cindy Nelson-Chair.

**Guests:** Kelsey Stone (EBC).

**Staff:** Brent Bristol – Village Administrator and Kim Roberts – Deputy Clerk.

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**1. Discussion regarding reusable serving ware for the Men’s Club Pancake Breakfast:**

A discussion was held regarding the feasibility of using reusable serving ware for the Men’s Club Pancake Breakfast. McCutcheon explained that he had spoken to the president of the Men’s Club and he had felt the expense would be too high. The function of the event is to raise funds for scholarships, so they try to keep costs low. C. Nelson inquired if McCutcheon could obtain the number served for the event so that as products get less expensive there may be a possibility to reconsider alternative serving ware in the future.

**2. Discussion and update on the Ephraim Wetlands Project:**

A discussion was held regarding the Ephraim Wetlands project. C. Nelson discussed the recent approval by the Village Board to provide matching funds for the project to be completed. Bristol provided information about the matching grant and the turnkey proposal with the contractor who completed the Newport State Park boardwalk. Bristol will update the Committee as the project progresses and if any volunteers are needed.

**3. Discussion and update on the Big Plant and ordering procedure:**

A discussion was held regarding the Big Plant. C. Nelson shared that the Physical Facilities & Utilities “PFU” Committee had approved one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) to support the Big Plant program on a one (1) year basis. Lutsey provided information on pricing for the two (2) year-old trees (\$3/tree – 18 per tray- a total of 54 trees). Lutsey also shared that there would be an opportunity for wholesale pricing to purchase native deciduous trees (Burr Oak, Silver Maple, and Black Cherry- 4-5 feet tall in 5-gallon pots). These trees would be offered through pre-order at a cost ranging from fifty (\$50) to sixty dollars (\$60). C. Nelson noted that she would share the deciduous tree opportunity with the PFU committee. C. Nelson asked Lutsey if the Village could be billed for the trees. Lutsey confirmed that he could bill the Village. The consensus was the tree order for the Big Plant would include one (1) tray of each of the following species White Pine, Red Pine, and White Spruce.

**4. Discussion regarding solar at the Wastewater Plant:**

A discussion was held regarding solar at the Wastewater Plant. The committee reviewed the 2023 kWh usage for the Wastewater plant. B. Nelson discussed the 2017 Elan Electric solar proposal and suggested getting updated information because technology and grants have changed considerably. He noted that the Wastewater Committee also was in the middle of a needs assessment. McMahon Engineering would also be providing information concerning the potential use of solar at the plant. O’Keefe (A community that used solar as a teaching resource) and Lutsey (Sturgeon Bay Utilities) offered to provide contacts for the next meeting. All agreed that there are considerable resources available in the form of grants that would make the solar payback period quicker; it is a matter of timing.

**5. Discussion regarding the Green Tier Checklist- how to best complete it:**

The committee discussed the recent 2022 Green Tier Checklist submission. A response from the DNR that not enough supporting information had been received. C. Nelson noted that there had been no replies to her emails and stressed that Green Tier was not supposed to be a burden on a municipality. She suggested dividing the categories to complete the supporting information during the next meeting to complete the 2023 checklist by the end of March. She requested that if possible, committee members attend in person to achieve the full benefit of the working session. B. Nelson suggested receiving materials before the meeting to allow time for preparation.

**6. Discussion regarding next countywide meeting – date and agenda:**

Lutsey reported there was no date yet for the March/April meeting. C. Nelson requested that the Green Tier Checklist and transportation be added to the agenda for discussion.

Additional discussion was held regarding a company that collects miscellaneous harder-to-recycle items called [Ridwell](#). C. Nelson suggested interested residents join the Ridwell waitlist to bring Ridwell to the area sooner [ridwell.com/get-ready](http://ridwell.com/get-ready).

A discussion was held regarding the recycling of small batteries. McCutcheon discussed recycling/disposal of batteries. He noted that he did not want to put them in the garbage and that perhaps there was something that could be done as a community effort to keep them from going to the landfill. B. Nelson noted that the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Door County “UUFDC” offers a box and then pays to have them recycled with Going Garbage. C. Nelson thought Green Tier could explore a higher traffic spot to place a box for recycling batteries with a top no larger than a D battery to prevent unwanted items.

Further discussion was held regarding items related to Green Tier that were discussed at a recent Ephraim Historical Foundation “EHF”, Ephraim Business Council “EBC”, and Village of Ephraim meeting. O’Keefe discussed the EBC survey that indicated that people were interested in seeing the installation of water filling stations, installation of EV stations, and solutions for transportation to reduce traffic and parking congestion. Discussion included updating research, CIF grant applications, appropriate usage of PRAT tax funds, and transportation. Lutsey inquired if there was interest in pursuing transportation. He discussed the recent action taken by the Town of Baileys Harbor. He suggested pursuing the issue locally as opposed to a county-wide solution. He discussed using the Green Tier network and the network’s shared information to obtain information from other communities; we shouldn’t need to reinvent the wheel, there are plenty of communities to learn from.

**7. Next meeting:**

Next meeting date: Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 8:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Recorded by, Kim Roberts – Deputy Clerk