

**VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM
GREEN TIER AD-HOC COMMITTEE WORKING SESSION MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024 – 8:00 AM - 9996 WATER STREET**



Present Lane Methner, Bruce Nelson, and Cindy Nelson-Chair.

Absent: Jeff Lutsey and Michael McCutcheon

Guests: Sophie Nelson.

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

1. Update on Door County Big Plant:

The Committee discussed if there was an area within the Village suitable for the Climate Change Coalition to engage in a Big Plant event. Ultimately, the discussion did not lead to a consensus on a suitable area for a large community planting. C. Nelson requested that committee members consider the number of trees to order for the Big Plant giveaway; the order has to be placed in February.

2. Update on Door County Trails:

C. Nelson expressed her excitement about the progress being made around the county. She noted that the Town of Gibraltar will hold a meeting on December 4, 2024, at 5:30 PM, at the Fish Creek Library to provide an update about their trail project.

3. Update on Wetlands:

Bristol explained that phase one (1) of the project is complete with regard to the bridges. The next steps include signage and some overdue maintenance to the paths. He noted that the goal is to take advantage of any weather windows that provide frozen ground without snow so that wood chips can be distributed along the paths. With two (2) days' notice, C. Nelson felt they could pull together volunteers to spread wood chips. The Committee discussed the signage in front of the Wetlands should be more detailed with the history of the Wetlands but the signage throughout the walking loops should be simplified. C. Nelson added that someone was needed to walk the wetlands to help them determine what was important to highlight with signage.

4. Update on Water Filling Stations for Fyr Bal:

A discussion was held regarding Destination Door County providing a water filling station for Fyr Bal. C. Nelson explained that people could fill their bottles or utilize composting cups. She noted that the filling station would be at twenty-eight (28) events in 2025. C. Nelson felt it may be appropriate to stop selling plastic water bottles during the event. Methner noted that would be an Ephraim Business Council "EBC" Board decision and that water sales contributed to sales revenue for Fyr Bal. C. Nelson felt it would be silly to sell water when DDC is being requested to provide water filling stations. S. Nelson suggested selling cardboard-boxed water as a plastic-free option. Methner agreed to have a conversation with the EBC Board.

5. Update on Bird City and Tree City Applications:

A discussion was held regarding the challenge of meeting the changing standards and the expense of the Bird City designation. C. Nelson noted that Tree City was free and took about ten (10) minutes to renew annually. It was agreed that Roberts should provide further information about the renewal standards so that the Committee could make an informed decision for the January meeting.

6. Update on Water Filling Stations:

A goal was set to meet with Tim Nelson to get solid numbers and locations for water filling stations for the January meeting. Locations discussed were: Marina, Beach, Village Hall, Information Center, and possibly Anderson Warehouse. The Committee felt that water filling stations would be a good grant opportunity.

7. Review of 2024 Goals:

C. Nelson reviewed the 2024 goals that were set in April: Water filling stations, energy audits on Village buildings, food pantry donation magnets for STRs, battery collection, pollinator gardens for Moravia Point and the Village Hall, and signage for the Wetlands. B. Nelson noted that with capital projects slated for Village buildings now was the time to do energy audits. C. Nelson noted that energy audits would be discussed in January. Further, battery collection would be removed from the list of goals due to ample free resources for residents to use to recycle batteries.

8. Discussion and update on Food Pantry Magnets:

Methner provided an update on the Food Pantry Magnets for STRs. She explained that communities are working together in addition to partnering with the Door County Food Pantry. They are waiting on approval of the final draft so that the magnets can be ordered. She further explained that EBC had a business sponsor who was paying for the Village magnets and the Village had offered to mail them to licensed STR properties within the Village.

9. Discuss the enclosure of the compost site map in the next Village Tax Letter insert:

C. Nelson discussed her desire to have the compost map for the county included in the next tax letter insert so that people hear more about composting. She inquired if this would necessitate Board approval. Bristol noted that there was time to discuss; the tax letter for this year has already gone to print.

Further discussion included when the next Village newsletter would go out. Committee members discussed topics such as the compost map, information about the upcoming Village re-evaluation, and a closing term article from the current Village President. The Committee brainstormed ideas on how to move away from the printed newsletter and how to ensure as many residents as possible receive the digital version. The Committee asked Roberts to report back for the January meeting all the ways the Village is in touch with property owners via mail, what we can add to encourage people to subscribe to updates from the website, and what percentage of the Village audience we are reaching.

10. Green Tier Scoresheet update:

C. Nelson reported that there were no updates to simplify the process of completing the Green Tier scoresheet. The hope had been that changes would be made to accommodate smaller communities. She noted that the scoresheet was due in March therefore the February meeting would be spent reviewing the 2024 submission. Further discussion included the importance of remaining a Green Tier Legacy Community concerning grants from the Clean Water Fund in relation to completing the needs assessment project work.

11. Discuss Green Tier as a Standing Committee:

C. Nelson explained that from time to time she brings this item up out of frustration. She reviewed how difficult it is to get on a PFU meeting agenda and the lack of a budget to support ongoing projects. Discussion included the general difference between an Ad-Hoc and a Standing Committee, if there would be importance in applying for Clean Water Fund Grants if the Committee was an Ad-Hoc versus a Standing Committee, and the path to graduating to a Village Standing Committee. Bristol reviewed the ordinance work that would be required.

12. Discussion on Green Tier Update for the Village Board:

The Committee agreed that an update for the Village Board would be conducted in December. The Committee discussed highlighting that the Village is now a five (5) year old Green Tier Legacy Community. It would be logical, C. Nelson noted, to take the next step and make the Committee a Standing Committee. Bristol recommended being specific in their ask and to include details of why it was important to legitimize the Committee, what the problems are, and the solutions.

13. Next meeting:

Next meeting date: Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 8:00 AM.

Follow-up items: Big Plant Order, Wetlands signage, Bird City information, Water Filling Stations, and Village newsletter/subscriber information.

New Business: Appoint Sophie Nelson to Green Tier at the December Village Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 AM.

Recorded by,

Kim Roberts – Deputy Clerk