

**VILLAGE OF FOX CROSSING  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 5:15 PM  
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX - 2000 MUNICIPAL DRIVE**

*“To help sustain our community for future generations by using resources in the most responsible ways at the right times and for the right reasons.”  
-Fox Crossing Sustainability Committee Mission Statement*

**Attendance:**

Kris Koeppe, Chair  
Michael Scheibe, Citizen Member  
Laurie Collins, Citizen Member  
Tracey Romzek, Citizen Member  
(\* present via virtual platform)

**Absent:**

Roni Kasperek, Citizen Member  
Susan Garcia Franz, Citizen Member

**Staff:**

George Dearborn, Director of Community Development  
Farrah Yang, Associate Planner  
Isabel Taubel, Summer Planning Intern

**Other:**

Manjari Chatterji, 906 Jacobson Rd  
Rahul Goyal, 2201 W Pershing St, Appleton  
Dr. G. Banerjee, St. Louis, MO

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Koeppe called the meeting to order at on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:15pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Scheibe, and seconded by Ms. Romzek to approve the meeting minutes of Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 with no corrections.

The motion carried 4-0.

**PUBLIC FORUM: Non-Agendized Village Related Matters**

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*Pursuant to WI Statutes 19.83(2) & 19.84(2), the public may present matters; however, they cannot be acted upon. There is a three minute time limit per person on non-repetitive matters.*

Manjari Chatterji, 906 Jacobson Road, brought up the following items:

1. We should encourage our community to compost.
2. Composting helps divert wet garbage from the landfill, and reduces methane.
3. Composting is something we would like to do, but it could cost us in finances, time, and labor more than help us.
4. We need to look into how other communities such as Appleton and Neenah handle composting.
5. Recycling to reduce waste in landfills.
6. We need to educate people about composting and recycling to gain support.
7. Incentivize it by making money.

Chairman Koeppe brought up the point that there may be many costs for composting as a community. He said we would need to follow certain regulations, have record keeping and checking, and have someone to turn the leaves over periodically to really compost. It would not be feasible to invest in something that can cost the Village more than it benefits.

Rahul Goyal, 2201 W Pershing St, Appleton, said that we have a lot of plastic and paper that goes into our landfill here that should be recycled instead. Even if these recycled materials become less useful after being recycled, it would reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill. Mr. Goyal said that he would like to speak with the manufacturers in the area about the materials that they use.

Chairman Koeppe replied that Mr. Goyal would have to approach the manufacturers on his own to see if they would be interested in making changes.

Director Dearborn said that there is a market for these materials. The public may not be doing what they should, but there is no enforcing or commitment to what they should.

Ms. Chatterji, 906 Jacobson Rd, said that if we were to fine people for choosing not to recycle, it could stimulate more interest in doing so.

Chairman Koeppe said that the Village is not responsible for collecting materials. The people who do collect them do not go through everything, but the recycling facility does. This would be difficult to regulate if we do not know exactly what is going in each collection. There are certain things that should not be recycled or composted and some things need to be washed out first. People do not always know this, so we should educate them. There would not be a lot of enthusiasm from manufacturers in cases of rising material costs. Recycling, however, can save the Village money because of lower garbage costs.

Ms. Chatterji said that it is not right for everyone to be paying the same tax amount for their garbage when not everyone produces the same amount of waste. She said that she composts at home, and uses a shredder for it. We cannot ask everyone to compost, but we can encourage them to. Especially

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for those who reduce their amount of garbage through recycling and composting, the tax fee should be less costly as an incentive to do so.

Ms. Romzek, citizen member, asked about the City of Appleton and City of Neenah's composting programs. She believes that it may be unnecessary to have to come up with our own system for composting when we could have the option to pool resources with other communities who are already working on this. We do not know the costs, regulations, what we need, or what it will take to start our own composting system.

Chairman Koeppe said we can start by encouraging people to compost at home first before moving to a larger scale.

Ms. Chatterji said that she would like to educate the people of the community. She asked if she would be allowed to hand out flyers to her neighbors.

After Ms. Romzek said she could, Director Dearborn said that she could also have educational opportunities on our Village website, in flyers or posters, or in the bills we send out. Director Dearborn said that programs such as composting are important, but he does not want staff members of Community Development to continue working on them. We need local support, and grass roots and local government cannot be the only way to do this. We can sponsor your promotional activities.

Chairman Koeppe said that Ms. Chatterji's idea could work as long as she can gain support. The State limits increases on our taxes, so to put funds into this program would mean taking away funds from another need.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Chairman Koeppe asked Ms. Romzek to check if leaves collections were going to Oshkosh.

Ms. Romzek said that when she was working at the landfill, she recalls Appleton helping and turning rows of compost.

Chairman Koeppe said that Appleton had started composting. It takes a huge area to be set aside, and does not happen in six months. Their compost took three years to break down, and needed somewhere to be stored in the mean time.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. No Mow May**

Chairman Koeppe said there were no complaints about the yards of those who participated. He said we may be able to make an ordinance for No Mow May.

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## 2. Community Gardens

Mr. Scheibe said that the gardens look soggy from the recent rain, but well overall. Fences around the plots will be encouraged so that plots do not get run over by a lawn mower anymore. There was one spot at Schildt Park that was looking weedy, but the rest looked good. The plot that has the hay stack at Wittmann Park looks more put together now.

Ms. Yang said that there were no complaints from the gardeners about the gardens. Some hoses had issues that we fixed. She said to let her know if there were any puddles next to them, but there was information put into the garden newsletter regarding the proper steps for using the hoses. The next informational newsletter will be about weeding.

Director Dearborn said that we have staff working on recycling film and garden work. This should be volunteer work instead. The gardeners used to help with the garden, but the member who did the work became ill and no longer manages a garden.

Ms. Collins said that she would be willing to help with the gardens, but would need to be asked and told what she can do.

Ms. Romzek said that the community should help with these tasks. There could be a free garden plot for those who are involved and help out with these projects. A poster should be made for the garbage so that people will know what to do. She said that mulching compost should be incentive-based so that it is participatory rather than taxing.

Chairman Koeppe said that the Community Gardens are run by the Parks and Recreation department, so they will have the final say in composting there. Signage at the parks was up to them. We may go to the Board as a request from the community if there is significant interest. He said that he would talk to Myra about limitations about what can go into envelopes.

Mr. Scheibe said there could be free gardens for those who become a "garden captain". This idea could be put in their newsletter, and if no one steps up, then the support from staff may go away.

Chairman Koeppe said that ponds will be in different areas with trails around them. There may be additional gardens in the future, but not in the next year.

Ms. Collins said that there were a lot of people on the waitlist for the garden plots, so we could use the additional plots.

Chairman Koeppe agreed, and reminded that we do not want to create more work for us by adding more plots. This is another reason for gaining help and leadership from gardeners.

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### 3. Plastic Film Recycling

There was a conversation about Chairman Koeppe unable to reach his contact for the month of June.

### 4. Recycling Education Plans

Chairman Koeppe said that recycling education could be a project for the scouts in the area. We could put a sticker on utility bills. There are about 6,000 households.

Mr. Scheibe said that his parents replaced all of their bins. They now say on them what can go in and what cannot. Stickers may have a chance of working, but also might not for everyone.

Ms. Romzek said that people may not always pay attention. We need education, since they are sometimes making things worse with their garbage when they are trying to help.

### 5. LED Street Light Update

Chairman Koeppe said that the project is complete, and he will be reporting on Monday. WE Energies will be receiving a spreadsheet. The budget will help us to see if we can do the project again.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Scheibe and seconded by Ms. Romzek to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried 4-0.

6:10 p.m.

Sustainability Committee  
July 7, 2021 Minutes

Isabel Taubel,  
Recording Secretary

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