

Sustainability & Energy Commission Minutes 6/8/23

A regular meeting of the Sustainability & Energy Commission was called to order by Brittany Goode at 6:02 PM Thursday, May June 8th, 2023, in the Woodbine Room of Central Park Place.

Present: Brittany Goode, Dan Small, Patti Nelsen, John Kinch, Nancy O'Neill, David Mann, Pamela Blough, Bob Monetza, Ryan Cotton, Erin Turrell, Joe Wallace, Jim Matthews, and Jean Madden.

Also present: Ashley Latsch, Brian Urquhart, Larry Burns (Professor at GVSU and member of Forestry Management Task Force.)

<https://www.gvsu.edu/gvnext/2022/fight-to-protect-trees-from-invasive-species-in-grand-haven-fortified-by-gvsu-effort-and-expertise.htm>)

1. Call to audience. No audience members.
2. Previous Meeting Minutes (5/11/23) approved unanimously.

AGENDA

Item 1: Madden provided on the Forest Management Plan. She reports that City Council will vote on the GHAFc Community Service Fund at their next meeting on June 20th. If approved, the task force can start fundraising efforts. The task force plans to create education materials for the public as well as fund on-going management of the Forest Management Plan. Madden showed a Power Point that explained the “Four Pillars” of the plan: Manage Invasive Species, Deer Management, Erosion Control, and Reforestation. The plan will address the lack of an understory to create a healthy ecosystem. Larry Burns from GVSU talked about Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), Oak Wilt, and Beech Bark Disease and what can be done to save the trees. In addition to invasive species, there are also invasive plants, deer over browsing and erosion that have a negative impact in Duncan Woods, Mulligan’s Hollow, and GH cemetery.

Item 2: Cotton provided an update for the Community Energy Plan. He reports that the Loutit Foundation Award has been approved and the CEP task force now has \$100,000 to hire a consultant. Following the RFQ, four proposals have been submitted for review. The newly formed steering

committee (made up of representatives and citizens from Grand Haven, Grand Haven Township, and Ferrysburg) will review the proposals at their meeting next week.

Item 3: Urquhart reports that Grand Haven has a “Fellow” (Graham Dietrich) from the UM Sustainability Institute for ten weeks this summer. He is working on a Green House Gas Inventory for the City. Currently Graham Dietrich is in the Data Collection stage. He is assessing various departments in the City as well as contractors at the airport and railroad. To assist in his findings, Graham will be utilizing the data analysis pertaining to GHG emissions from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The final draft of his report regarding a Green House Gas Reduction Plan is due in July. On July 27th there will be a presentation to the Catalyst Leadership Circle (CLC) group. <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/outreach/catalyst-communities/cohorts/catalyst-leadership-circle-and-fellowship>

Other:

- O’Neill has obtained a free TerraCycle Recycling Box from Bic Pens. She is collecting glue sticks, markers, highlighters, pens, mechanical pencils, and watercolor containers and packaging. Any of the pens, markers, and pencils can be collected with or without caps. She will be collecting these items until the end of September and has asked people to drop off these types of items at our meetings or at her home, 216 South Second Street (at the NE corner of Second and Lafayette). The front side door porch is the best place to leave them.
- There were about twelve participants at the Beach Clean Up on July 5th at City Beach.
- Blough brought up an opportunity for funding through a grant for coastal communities to address resiliency. From the website: *The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Water Resources Division (WRD), Michigan Coastal Management Program (MCMP) is seeking proposals for round 2 of the Creating a Culture of Resilience Capacity 2023 Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO). Michigan’s coastal communities are on the front lines of facing the “perfect storm” from our seasonal fluctuating Great Lakes water levels impacted by climate change. Impacts such as the*

record level lows and record high water levels, more intense and frequent storm events, and unseasonal temperatures. Like many municipalities in Michigan, limited budgets, competing local interests, insufficient staff capacity and a lack of technical expertise make planning for resiliency challenging. This GFO is targeted for capacity building to focus efforts on increasing coastal communities' knowledge of coastal risks by conducting outreach, technical assistance, and training workshops on actions that lead communities to be resilient-ready. The WRD anticipates \$500,000 in grant funds to be available for this round of funding. <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/coastal-management/2023-grant-resilience> The MCMP will host a webinar on June 29, 2023, at 1:00 PM to cover application and funding requirements of the Creating a Culture of Resilience Capacity 2023 GFO.

Small made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02, Madden supported. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:02