

Marine GreenStep City Committee Minutes – September 8, 2019

Present: Kevin Hein, Peter Foster, Greg Johnson, Leslie MacKenzie, Liz Kelley

AGENDA

1. Review action opportunities
2. Discuss CERT technical assistance grant
3. Communications
4. Emergency Preparedness

Review GreenStep Spreadsheet

Committee members looked over the 29 areas and actions that are part of the GreenStep City program and began the process of eliminating from consideration those actions that aren't relevant to a city of our size or feasible for our community's resources or budget. The goal of this process is to winnow down the possible choices for future action so that we can decide on which projects to focus on in future.

We will continue on with this winnowing process for the next few meetings.

CERT Grant

Kevin, Leslie and Anne Reich met earlier in the week to discuss whether it was possible to apply for the CERT technical assistance grant. The idea had been floated at the prior meeting that we might seek technical assistance to advise on the feasibility of solar energy. Kevin talked about using the grant to begin the process of benchmarking energy use.

The decision was made that this was not a good time to move forward: The timeline is quite short; the committee had no projects currently in the process; the town council could not be consulted. This grant will come up again in two years. Our goal is to be ready at that time.

Benchmarking energy use is going to be a key activity for future decision making and to become a Step 4 city. Kevin said this might be accomplished with the use of a GreenCorp volunteer. He is going to talk with someone at the MPCA about whether we can use a volunteer to begin this process.

Communications

We discussed the importance of informing and engaging the community. Do people know what this committee is, what it has done? Do we have a community vision? We would like to develop a communications strategy to increase visibility and engagement. We wondered if we could get a page on the city website.

Liz offered to write articles for the Marine newsletter (given enough time). Leslie is going to write this month's article, with Anne.

Emergency Preparedness

Our community has taken the county's emergency plan. We don't know if this has involved any community members or only the fire department. We do not have a Community Emergency Response Team; neither does Scandia or Stillwater. The closest CERT team is Taylor's Falls. This is one of the areas of GreenStep so we should come back to this later.

NEXT MEETING

- Communication's planning (1 hour)
- Winnow down GreenStep spreadsheet (15 minutes)

BEFORE NEXT MEETING

- ADVANCE WORK to reduce the number of GreenStep options. Leslie will condense the GreenStep City Marine spreadsheet, removing the action steps that the committee decided today were not feasible or relevant. She will send it to all committee members.
- Each committee member is asked to PRIORITIZE each action in the spreadsheet, rating them from 0 (can't do or not feasible) to 2 (high priority, easy to do). Send the spreadsheet back to Leslie. She will compile scores and remove any action items that rate zero.