

**MAHTOMEDI ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
Mahtomedi City Hall
600 Stillwater Road
March 13, 2023
6:30 P.M.**

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | 6:30 |
| 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA | |
| 3. APPROVAL OF THE February 13, 2023 MEETING MINUTES | |
| 4. OLD BUSINESS | 6:35 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- No Mow May- RITE of Spring 2023 | |
| 5. NEW BUSINESS – | |
| 6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS | 7:55 |
| 7. ADJOURNMENT | 8:00 |

MAHTOMEDI ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

February 13, 2023

A regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was held on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Present were Commission Members: Christine Ahmann-Maples, Thomas Collins, Erin Roche, Scott Peterson, William Seuffert

Also present: City Administrator Scott Neilson, City Council Liaison Jane Schneeweis, WSB Planner Eric Zweber, Accounting Clerk Melissa Bohdan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Thomas Collins, seconded by William Seuffert to approve agenda. Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Christine Ahmann-Maples, seconded by Thomas Collins to approve the January 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Sustainability Grant – WSB Planner Eric Zweber explained the process of gathering information from commission member and drafting up proposed ordinances. Zweber explained that he would provide draft of ordinances at April meeting. Commission discussed tree replacement in tree ordinance as well as native plant vegetation ordinance.

Solar Co-op – Commission Member Tom Collins gave update on solar co-op. Collins explained that time to sign up for co-op will be closed before RITE of Spring event. Commission members discussed gathering emails from residents at RITE of Spring event to show interest for future discussions with co-ops.

RITE of Spring 2023 –Commission Chair Christine Ahmann-Maples led discussion of what needs to be done to prepare for RITE of Spring event in April 2023. City Administrator Neilson gave update of groups he was told would be attending. Commission asked city staff to help facilitate vendor/participants. Commission Member Erin Roche said she would reach out the Washington County regarding tree orders for event. Commission Member Tom Collins said he would reach out to Costa's Farm to also request trees for event. City Administrator Neilson agreed to reach out to WSB contact to request light bulbs for hand out at event.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. No Mow May
2. RITE of Spring 2023

ADJOURMENT

Motion by Thomas Collins, seconded by William Seuffert to Adjourn meeting, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Submitted by:

Melissa Bohdan

Accounting Clerk

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT NO MOW MAY INITIATIVE 2023 (Draft)

WHEREAS, the Mahtomedi City Council recognizes that bees and other pollinators are integral to pollination of plants in order to grow a wide diversity of essential foods including fruit, nuts and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, pollinator populations are threatened due to habitat loss, neonicotinoid use, pathogens and parasites; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mahtomedi passed in 2021 a Sustainability Plan, that provides goals to create more pollinator friendly areas through establishing un-mowed native vegetated buffer strips adjacent to wetlands and adoption of vegetation management practices which allows for tall native grass plantings on residential properties; and

WHEREAS, recent research suggests that bee pollinators make use of no mow spaces as key floral resources during early spring in the upper Midwest United States; and

WHEREAS, pollinators and floral resources have a positive relationship, where the increase in pollinators can increase the amount of flora and vice versa; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it is in the public interest and consistent with adopted City policy for the City to demonstrate its commitment to a safe and healthy community environment through the implementation of initiatives that help increase the pollinator population.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mahtomedi, Washington County, Minnesota,

To continue its effort to become a pollinator friendly City by ensuring best management practices for management of vegetation, and

To continue to identify actively maintained areas that could be converted back to vegetation favorable to bees and other pollinators, or left natural to promote nesting areas for bees, and

To proclaim May 1st – 31st, 2022 as “No Mow May”, and encourage all residents of the City who wish to participate in this initiative refrain from mowing their lawns in the month of May to provide vital early spring flowers for bees that emerge from hibernation, and

To Temporarily suspend enforcement for No Mow May of Mahtomedi City Code requirements in Chapter 12.03, Section 2(i), specifically that “All weeds or grass growing to height greater than nine (9) inches” is a Public Nuisance, from May 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023.

ATTEST: