

Sustainable Marshfield Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 8, 2010

The monthly meeting of the Sustainable Marshfield Committee was called to order at 5:20 p.m. by Chair Marty Anderson in the Executive Conference Room, lower level, City Hall Plaza

Members present: Gary Cummings, Randy Lueth, Sue Meyer, Georgette Frazer, and Marty Anderson,

Members absent: None

Others present: Amy Krogman, Amy Peterson, Jim Benson, Candace Zeinert, David Bredendick, Tim Janssen, and Liz Welter

Motion by Randy Lueth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue Meyer to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2010 meeting.  
Motion carried

**Citizens Comments:**

- Marty Anderson stated the Mid-West Renewal Energy Fair will be held June 18, 19, and 20. He will be participating in a round table discussion at the fair.
- Sue Meyer stated it was Wisconsin Bike to Work week. Several communities have events going on. She would like to consider doing something next year.
- Georgette Frazer stated the Buy Local group is expanding their website. They would like people to join the Buy Local email Update Club. People will then receive an email whenever a local business has a savings promotion, coupon, or something exciting to share.
- Sue Meyer stated the first education event for the community garden will be held on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd Church. The topic will be General Gardening Information and Composting.
- Randy Lueth stated that Tiny Tigers is building 12 gardening plots on the side of their building for use by their families.

The committee beginning discussing the "chicken" ordinance. Sue Meyer felt the ordinance should be supported. Georgette Frazer felt there was an interest in raising your own chickens due to health concerns.

Motion by Sue Meyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Georgette Frazer to direct staff to draft an ordinance with the following included:

- Separate section for chickens
- 4 chickens per household
- Roosters are no allows
- Slaughtering of chickens I not allowed
- Chicken coop only permitted on property with single-family dwellings
- Chickens must be kept in a covered enclosure
- Separation of chicken coop and adjacent residential structures

and bring the draft ordinance back to the Sustainable Marshfield Committee at its July meeting

**Motion Carried**

The committee discussed ATC and the tree removal. Marty Anderson has received a memo from Bob Trussoni from Marshfield Utilities explaining the policy. The memo follows. The italics is Bob's response to Marty

From: Anderson, Marty R [mailto:anderson.marty@securityhealth.org]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 1:30 PM  
To: Bob Trussoni  
Subject: RE: Sustainable Marshfield

Bob,

I appreciate the thorough response.

My understanding from one of the property owners with an existing easement is that they will not be compensated for the tree removal. Is this true and if so, can additional compensation be negotiated for this property owner?

*It is true that we would not compensate the owners for the tree removals. We already have an easement and would plan to remove the trees under that easement if they do not wish to sign the new one. The new easement is for less area and is actually more restrictive on us, so the customer benefits from signing the easement. The wording of the new easement is as dictated by the Wisconsin Public Service commission. We do offer replacement trees to the property owners, but not necessarily one for one. IF a tree is put back in to the easement area, it must be the variety with a mature height to not exceed 15'. If outside the easement area, there is no restriction. We did offer a small amount of compensation (\$100) for the trouble of signing to the land owners on the rural sections. Since this is urban and thus more of an issue, we could consider a \$500 bonus. We want to be consistent with what we do, so we would offer whatever is established to all property owners along this section.*

If there are replacement plans, is that something the Sustainable Marshfield Committee could take a look at? Also, is ATC working to ensure that they are only taking the minimum necessary and if so, how can that be judged against their proposed plans (are the plans public)?

*I am not aware of any plans other than what I stated above. As far as taking only the minimum, we are reducing the easement size to only that which is deemed necessary. The original request for easement area was for a 40' easement. We worked with ATC to reduce it and the width now being obtained is the minimum that they believe they need. Originally we were instructed to remove all trees in the easement area. We worked with ATC and were able to convince them to allow the low growing variety of trees to remain so they are trying to minimize the impact as well.*

Any additional information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Marty R. Anderson  
715-221-9716  
www.securityhealth.org

From: Bob Trussoni [mailto:Trussoni@MarshfieldUtilities.org]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 12:52 PM  
To: Anderson, Marty R  
Subject: Sustainable Marshfield

Marty,

I understand that there was some discussion about the tree trimming for the transmission lines at the sustainable Marshfield meeting. I wanted to clear up a couple of items. First, the height of acceptable trees that can remain in the easement area is 15' not 9'. I am not sure where the 9' came from. Also, the easement width varies from 30' to 33 depending on the situation.

As you are likely aware, federal standards have continued to get tighter as they relate to utilities. There are standards that specifically address tree trimming for line rated at 200 KV and above. Our line is rated at 115KV so those specific standards do not apply. In addition to these standards, there are accepted utility practices which with we must be concerned. Even if we do not have a line rated at 200 KV or above, we will be held to those accepted utility standards. This basically means that if we do not trim the

trees to what is now the industry standard, we can be fined if a tree should cause an outage. We can be found in non compliance. Because of this, we have gotten much more aggressive in trimming in the last few years. On the rural sections of line, we have gone from a trimming program to a mowing program where we mow the right of way to clear it of all trees.

Recently, we have decided to sell the transmission assets to ATC. ATC strictly follows accepted utility practices for all of their transmission lines, both above 200 KV and below. Before they will accept the transfer of these transmission assets, they require that we trim to their standards. We were heading down this path anyway without ATC, so the asset acquisition just made it happen a little sooner.

I understand also that there are concerns that ATC plans to raise the voltage on this line, thus the reason for the trimming. This is not true. To change the voltage, we would need to replace all of our substation power transformers. Also, the lines to which our sections of line connect, have been recently rebuilt at the 115 KV level. I have heard of no plans involving raising the voltage on these line sections.

We have met with very little resistance while obtaining the necessary easements. We have one customer on McMillan and an alderman who have voiced more than the usual concerns. Many have voiced concern to our representative in the field over losing trees and we fully understand that concern. They have also said that they understand the need for the removals My signature and contact information was included on all of the letters that were sent out to the property owners with instructions to contact me if there were any issue beyond what could be worked out with our field representative. I have received only on such call.

We are compensating the property owners at a substantial level. We have worked with them on tree removal, stump grinding, property access, and tree replacement where appropriate. They are compensated for the tree, the easement, and an additional amount for a waiver to avoid the process of obtaining property evaluations. We are using the property values that are on record with the city for the compensation amounts. The compensation levels are generous. Because of the effort to address the customers concerns and to fairly compensate them, we have been successful in obtaining easements thus far.

Please feel free to call Joe or me if you have any questions or need any more information.

Bob Trussoni  
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2000 South Central  
Marshfield WI 54449  
715-387-1195 X331

Motion by Georgette Frazer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy Lueth to recommend that the property owners be compensated two appropriate sized trees for every tree removed.

**Motion Carried**

Marty Anderson will contact Bob Trussoni to discuss this.

Sue Meyer will draft a mission statement and bring it back to the committee at the July13, 2010 meeting.

Jim Schmidt will write the article for the Marshfield News Herald in July. Amy Krogman will contact him about the article.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Krogman  
Mayor's Secretary