

AD HOC GREEN TIER LEGACY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 13 2025
(Approved Version)

1. Roll Call

The November 13, 2025 meeting of the Green Tier Legacy Community Committee was called to order by Chairperson Louise Howson at 1:02 P.M.

Present: Louise Howson, Mary Smythe, Lisa O'Hearn, Paula Anschutz, and Jill Wiebe.

Staff: Administrative Assistant Sarah Bertges

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Wiebe, second by Smythe. Motion carried – all ayes.

3. Approval of the Minutes – February 19, 2025

Discussion ensued regarding the February 19, 2025 minutes. Anschutz and O'Hearn noted they couldn't remember specific details due to the time that had passed, but confirmed the topics discussed in the minutes were accurate.

Motion to approve the minutes by O'Hearn, second by Anschutz. Motion carried – all ayes.

4. Comments, Correspondence, and Concerns from the Public

Howson noted there were no members of the public present on Zoom and no correspondence had been received.

Howson referenced minutes submitted by Smythe from the September 29, 2025 Green Tier Legacy Committee state meeting, which would be referenced throughout the meeting as needed.

5. Discussion/Action Items

a. Recap of 2025 Activities

Anschutz summarized the committee's activities in 2025:

- Anti-Plastic Campaign: The committee had planned to encourage reduction of plastic bag usage, as they couldn't ban them outright due to state restrictions. Plans included:
- Research into non-plastic bag alternatives led by O'Hearn and Anschutz
- Collaboration with Ryan Miller for local artwork designs for reusable bags
- Plans to distribute reusable bags at Piggly Wiggly (with preliminary discussions with management)
- Research on plastic straw alternatives and eco-friendly product options for local businesses
- Educational Materials: O'Hearn had developed poster concepts about environmental actions that weren't implemented.
- Earth Day Activities: The committee successfully distributed approximately 162 trees (9 flats of 18 trees each) through coordination with the Climate Change Coalition. Trees were primarily distributed at the Barney Fun Run.

The committee discussed the need to determine the current budget balance and 2026 budget allocation.

Smythe raised questions about previous initiatives mentioned in February's minutes, including:

- LED light conversion project and its impact on the International Dark Sky Park at Newport
- A potential joint meeting with the Parks Committee
- Research into recycled rubber surfacing for playgrounds

Howson clarified that the Parks Committee had reviewed street lights but the joint meeting hadn't occurred, and that the playground surfacing issue hadn't been brought to Parks.

b. Planning for Volunteer Day(s) 2026

The committee discussed potential volunteer day activities for 2026:

- Timing: Members agreed that more advance notice and planning were needed than in previous years. The committee discussed avoiding scheduling conflicts with other community events like the Barney Fun Run.
- Potential Projects:
- Committee members noted that beach cleanups weren't necessary as Sister Bay beaches are generally well-maintained
- Highway or street cleanup was suggested as a possibility, with particular focus on Highway 57
- Anschutz suggested possibly adopting a section of highway for ongoing maintenance
- The committee also discussed weeding projects, though noted this might fall outside their mission
- Alternative Volunteer Activities:
- O'Hearn suggested organizing a reusable bag exchange event
- Discussion of potentially collecting plastic bags for proper recycling, though Anschutz emphasized the primary goal should be reducing plastic use rather than recycling

c. Planning for Earth Day activities 2026

The committee discussed continuing and potentially expanding their tree distribution program for Earth Day 2026:

- Tree Giveaway: Members agreed to continue the program given its past success, with suggestions to:
- Maintain or increase the quantity from the previous 9 flats (162 trees)
- Consider the best distribution location (downtown Sister Bay was suggested for visibility and accessibility)
- Explore potential timing and coordination with Climate Change Coalition
- Additional Earth Day Ideas:
- Smythe mentioned the Climate Change Coalition might add perennials to their offerings and would provide more information at the next meeting
- The committee discussed potential locations including downtown Sister Bay, Piggly Wiggly, NWTC, or Corner of the Past
- Anschutz suggested coordinating with a community cleanup day to encourage participation in both activities
- Reusable Bag Campaign:
- The committee revisited their reusable bag campaign idea, with Anschutz sharing artwork designs from Ryan Miller
- Discussion about making the designs more clearly tied to Sister Bay's identity
- O'Hearn explained the bags would be fully customizable but would require lead time for production
- Smythe asked about budget approval process, and O'Hearn clarified the committee had previously approved spending \$3,000 on bags within their existing budget
- Marketing/Awareness Ideas:
- Howson suggested creating seasonal posters related to the committee's environmental initiatives
- Wiebe suggested more prominent signage for the village's water bottle filling stations
- Smythe proposed publicly recognizing businesses making environmentally friendly improvements
- The committee discussed potential window clings or other recognition for businesses implementing green practices

6. Matters to be Placed on Future Agenda, Referred to a Committee, Official or Employee

The committee established the following items for future agendas:

- Review of the 2024 annual report
 - Discussion of filing the 2025 annual report
 - Detailed planning for the reusable bag program
 - Planning for the Earth Day tree giveaway
 - Volunteer day planning
 - Review of current funds and 2026 budget
 - Scheduling a joint meeting with Parks Committee (target February/March)
 - Marketing/awareness initiatives
 - Tree canopy discussion (added by Smythe)
- The committee agreed to meet on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Smythe, second by O'Hearn to adjourn the November 13, 2025 meeting of the Green Tier Legacy Community Committee at 2:20 P.M. Motion carried – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Bertges, Administrative Assistant