

November 13, 2018

Sustainable Frenchtown

Meeting Minutes

8 - 9 PM

Invited: Environmental Commissioners and Sustainable Frenchtown volunteers
 Location: Frenchtown Borough Hall

Meeting Agenda

| Topic/Issue | | Facilitator | Time |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---------|
| Sustainable Frenchtown meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and introductions to new people | Margaret | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HART Bike Friendly Community Program | Guest: Caryl Harris, Bicycle Specialist, HART | 20 min. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastics reduction campaign team update Community composting Creative Team update | Lacy Barbara Leigh | 30 min. |
| Misc. | Anything else we want to share | ALL | |

Caryl and Nathan from Go Hunterdon presented on the League of Bicyclists Bike Friendly Certification Program.

This is a certification program similar to sustainable jersey and would earn us points towards our certification, and makes us eligible for grants. Status helps you promote your community for tourism and business.

Lambertville and Princeton have this designation.

They both feel our town is already bike friendly, and we are well positioned to succeed.

The process -- we fill out a large questionnaire, which takes a lot of work, and Go Hunterdon would support us. We would look at engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation/planning.

Two deadlines, February and August. We agreed to establish subcommittee to focus on this. The subcommittee would meet regularly, Go Hunterdon would work on safe routes to school, others would take up different sections of the application. We may need some assistance from road department and police. The August deadline is realistic, February is not.

Lacy will check with the business association to check interest in supporting and participating -- some might also be interested in the bicycle friendly business designation.

Tom, Barbara, and Margaret volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Lacy will see if anyone from the business community is interested in being on the subcommittee.

Next step is for subcommittee to familiarize ourselves with the website, after January 1st we can schedule our first meeting.

Anti-idling campaign -- Nathan reports that our sustainable jersey application is filled out and complete with regard to this program. In his report he summarized the monitoring, education campaign, and the results. The numbers pre and post education campaign did show a significant reduction in idling. We cut idling cars in half through this effort!

Plastics Reduction Campaign:

Raritan valley community college studied plastics pollution north of Trenton, they canvassed the area for trash, and Lacy reported on findings.

Lacy ran the idea of a single use plastic ban past the business association, they could eventually vote to endorse an ordinance.

Using Lambertville as a model -- passed an ordinance that institutes a single use plastics ban

We talked about the challenges -- potential opposers, getting council to pass an ordinance, educating the community. We agreed that more information was

needed from communities that were successful, and also prioritizing the work plan as Lacy is moving on to head the business association.

Composting:

Barbara presented her report on community composting programs -- Lambertville and Lawrenceville have curbside pick up. This could be an effort to reduce the waste stream. Lambertville got a \$10k grant from the league of municipalities to start their program -- to start a voluntary program. Questions to answer: is the municipality conducting this program or an outside vendor? What are the costs? John Mizin provided historic context for composting programs in the community garden.

John and Barbara will do further exploration of Lambertville's program

And Margaret suggested he speak with Gerry St. Onge who launched a backyard composting program a few years back.

Creative Team update:

Unfortunately we were denied the grant we applied for through Sustainable Jersey to establish a database for the creative assets inventory ,but we were encouraged to re-apply in the next round. Leigh is speaking at the league of municipalities tomorrow to present on the creative assets inventory. We have some money in the EC budget, we could possibly direct \$1000 to this project. The bid was for \$2500 to \$4000. Pete is going to take a look at the quote and the price for the scope of work, Margaret and Leigh will talk to Holly about a municipal budget -- Leigh will pursue reapplication for grant funds.

Sustainable Frenchtown agreed that Leigh Marino would be our proxy voter for Frenchtown Business Association elections (we are a member)

John shared that there will be beds available in the garden next year, we agreed to spread the word.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM