

Sustainable Frenchtown
Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2016
Borough Hall, Frenchtown
6:30 - 7:45 PM

Meeting called to order 6:35 PM

In attendance:

Margaret Waldo, Holly Low, Joel Boriek, Leigh Marino, Lacy Phelps, Michael Lewis, Tom Woodruff, Bill O'Brien

Holly Low led the group through the Sustainable Jersey website, familiarizing everyone with the site, the resources, and how to access Frenchtown's application.

Action leaders reported out on progress with assigned actions:

Leigh Marino — met with val civil about the creative team, who is very excited we are doing this as part of our application. Leigh and she will figure out if we need our own separate team or if we can get points as part of the Hunterdon Hub. the HUB is planning for a studio tour next May, their studios become a destination for art tourism. And we can participate in that to secure points, and we would participate in advertising. and agreed to have a creative team hub in next few weeks.

Leigh Marino — school/community garden is ready to upload but she needs to get into the website, and she will get minutes from school board as well

Holly Low (on behalf of Mike Reino) — we got a quote for paper shredding day, \$700, and the mayor has agreed to cover the cost through our clean community grants. and Holly will Mike Reino and Mayor about organizing a paper shredding day, when, what, how to promote — work with Leigh and Mike on creative promotion.

Complete streets — Tom Woodruff will reach out to Nathan Charon from HART for documentation and reach out to Bill Sullivan

Safe routes to school — Margaret will reach out to Nathan to check in with his progress in uploading documentation of Frenchtown programs and activities over the last year

Joel Boriek — reported on progress with getting Borough to support the state wildlife action pledge, establishment of EC, and environmental commission land use planning process — Joel has traded emails with Jim Meade, they are getting started on familiarizing themselves with the action plan, as well as other requirements, and they will get done by September.

Lacy Phelps — Smoke free community - Lacy has the ordinances and working on uploading documentation

Prescription Drug disposal — Bill O'Brien is meeting with Police Chief Al K on Thursday for prescription drug documentation

Holly will send pdfs of the details for what needs to be uploaded into our application, since we cannot access our site when it is under review

Michael Lewis and Leigh Marino asked to be added to the Google Drive and also to the Hunterdon Hub basecamp site. Margaret will follow up on both.

Group then turned to long range ideas and goals, things that we get passionate about carrying forward, and the opportunity to utilize a previously awarded grant of \$20k from Sustainable Jersey, originally for the food waste composting program, which could not go forward due to many factors. Margaret confirmed that she spoke with SJ leadership about the proposal and that we've been given until end of August to submit a grant request for the funds, eligible activities are those that advance our sustainable jersey certification and we have about a year to expend the funds. Holly spoke with the Mayor and he reported that Borough Council has instructed us to direct \$7k to our environmental resources inventory, we brainstormed ideas for the remaining \$13k, building off of the brainstorming session from our last meeting, including: do we straighten out the recycling yard, recycling bins? Mike R. identified this as a real opportunity, that a little money could go a long way towards increasing recycling and expanding the service he provides at the public DPW yard.
Bike racks and improving bike parking in town, a bike library
Reusable bags, plastic bag reduction program
Green business recognition program - shop local campaign

committee agreed that those who want to can meet to discuss these ideas further and frame out a proposal to submit; the rest of the group agreed that this subcommittee could take the lead and no need to bring back to the larger group. We agreed to meet on Tuesday, July 26th at 7 PM at Leigh's house for this.

Holly reported that Mayor said we can get a budget for Sustainable Frenchtown, roughly \$1500 a year, beginning next year.

Leigh also reported she is starting a story telling business, and is excited to help out with communications, storytelling, etc. to help us spread word, engage more people in our efforts. Everyone got excited when we imagined how we might incorporate storytelling into all of our work, and simple ways we can gather data through community interaction (surveys, etc)

Leigh drafted up a mission statement for all of us to consider, we agreed we should focus on having something we can live with for now, in the interest of getting something up on our website and for Riverfest if we do tabling, and that we can continue to refine it going forward.

Leigh's proposed mission: "Sustainable Frenchtown's mission is to transform the Borough of Frenchtown into the healthiest, most viable, thriving community we can be through the implementation of ideas and actions that give back to our town, state and world at large."

Feedback from members:

Something about the environment in there

Sustainability is about business and creativity too

Environmental, business and social sustainability

"Mobilize the community to promote environmental, economic and social sustainability"

SF meeting concluded at 8:15, Environmental Commission meeting commenced.