

April 20, 2010

West Vincent Sustainability Task Force Meeting Minutes

Attending: Vic Laubach, Penny Fulton, Kit Troler, Mary Kane, Jean Manseuto, Kip Archinal, Michael Babitch, Adrienne Boyance, Jean Warrick, Kate Damsgaard, Clare Quinn. Absent: Ben James, Jim Wendelgass, Sara Shick, Diane Phillips.

Energy Goals/ Targets

We discussed the energy goals and targets for the sustainability plan. Vic and Ben had prepared a report that the group used to prompt the discussion.

From the discussion it was agreed that:

- 1) Plan should set stretch goals for CO₂ emission reduction. We can always revisit these goals when we are more knowledgeable, based on the action items included in the Plan. Our township would like to set a high standard for the region and perhaps encourage inter township competition to meet high goals.
- 2) Group agreed to use Babitch's suggestion that we use the best science available and thus the IPCC targets.
- 3) We agreed to an incremental approach.
- 4) The goals then for CO₂ emission reductions were:
Reduce township-wide CO₂ emissions by 40% by 2020 and 70% by 2050. At this point, the baseline would be the West Vincent township emissions data from 2005 that was included in the 2009 DVRPC Greenhouse Gas Inventory. West Vincent's per capita emissions in metric tonnes was calculated at 11.8. (Chester County's Green house Gas Task Force uses this base line number also.)
- 4) We set a target of 50% reduction in municipal energy consumption by 2020. We should set five year interim targets. The township has control over its operations and thus a more aggressive goal was taken. Ben and Vic's report estimates a 20% reduction in the Township owned waste water treatment facilities by using best practice maintenance programs.
- 5) No targets were set for "reducing township wide energy consumption" or for "the purchase and/or generation of electricity from alternative sources".

Equity Goals/ Targets

At our May meeting, we will discuss goals and targets for Equity. Clare briefly described some possible goals/ targets. In 2008, West Vincent's median sales price was \$608,000. In 2009, it was over \$400,000. Our goal is to have a diverse community—one not segregated by income. One goal would be to target 10-15% of West Vincent housing

stock to sell between \$200,000 and \$300,000. The \$200,000 bench mark would make housing affordable for families earning 235% of the poverty figure for households. (A standard used in some housing programs). It does not seem realistic to think that housing selling under \$200,000 would be provided without government subsidies or other controls. Township ordinances can remove barriers, create incentives and provide some regulation to achieve this goal. The market ultimately will have a strong effect on housing cost unless some government-mandated controls are adopted. Currently, we allow accessory houses on lots greater than five acres—a low impact method of providing less expensive housing by removing the cost of land. Clare will take a look at Maryland's programs which have been successful.

Community Day Logistics

A sign-up sheet was passed around for staffing the WVST booth. Kip is providing a rain barrel and a rain barrel demonstration. We are providing information on the concept of sustainability; what actions the township is currently taking to be more sustainable and asking Community Day booth visitors what actions their families are taking to be more sustainable. Clare and Kate are also putting together a scavenger hunt based on the theme of Sustainability.

Penny asked that each of us pot up two plants from our properties for her plant swap table.

Announcements

Green Valleys Assn is presenting the film, *A Chemical Reaction, The Story of a True Green Revolution* at the Colonial theatre in Phoenixville on May 5, 2010 at 7:00PM. A discussion then ensued about having a Sustainable Film Festival. We could show *Food, Inc.*, the Blue Gold film and others.

Next Meeting Date

Because of the primary election being held on our regular meeting date, we will meet the following evening, Wednesday, May 19, 2010 from 7:30PM to 9:00PM at the West Vincent township building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Damsgaard

