

February 16, 2010
Sustainability Task Force Meeting Minutes

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

Township Sustainability Plan Goals and Targets Drafted

Clare presented the plan goals and targets that she and Kate had drafted over the past few weeks. Clare noted that we “stole” the five “E” goal framework from the City of Philadelphia’s Greenworks Plan because they fit very nicely with the holistic approach West Vincent is taking toward sustainability. They are: Energy, Environment, Economy, Equity and Engagement. There are a total of 19 targets—many of which have metrics associated with them—under the five goals. The goals and targets are attached to these minutes. Metrics are missing and task force members will research appropriate metrics over the next few weeks.

Clare also presented a worksheet outlining wish list items organized by goals so that TF members could see how the brainstormed items related to the broader direction.

Clare’s additional comments

- Over lap between Environment and Energy goals is strong. For instance, reforestation will help achieve better air quality by reducing the amount of CO2 in the air.
- The Economy Goal: “provide for diverse, place- specific economic development”—means we want to look at those economic activities that make sense in WV. Kate added: goal is to not to be a bedroom community.

Reaction

Agreement among members that the paradigm was fine. Some specific comments were:

Michael: We need to keep an open mind toward amending the plan.

Clare noted that there is no description in the MPC on how townships will monitor sustainability plans. The MPC does get very specific re: other advisory committees like EAC’s. The idea here is that the task force will perform a plan monitoring function once it is adopted.

Jean: Where is Education?

Clare: Under Engagement. This is a government action oriented plan so the township will support efforts to educate residents about sustainability.

Kip: Add control of waste water management to the targets under Environment.

Ben: Check the target for land preservation. Clare will do this.

Kit: We should make sure that there are no goals/ targets in conflict.

Kate: What is the time period the plan covers? Clare: That will evolve as we determine action items.

Targets

A discussion ensued on how to create metrics for certain targets. Michael pointed out that while measuring and then reducing municipal energy consumption is possible, measuring resident energy use sounds difficult. Kate: Can we do sampling through surveys/ science projects at the elementary school whereby students track their family's energy use?

Paid consultants will be hired to help taskforce members craft metrics eventually. But Kate and Clare would like task force members to volunteer to help research these choosing those areas of particular interest to them. There is much information available to the public including info on the US Census website, also via the Chester County Planning Department and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

The following volunteered to refine targets

Energy: Ben

Environment: Jean, Kip and Kit

Economy: Sara

Equity: Clare and Penny

Engagement: Mary

Michael is considering which area he would like to work in. As is Kate. Kate will contact uncommitted taskforce members within the next week to see where they would like to work.

Community Day, May 2010

The WVST will have a booth at Community Day which will feature a scavenger hunt using sustainability as its theme. Kit who is involved in the event organizing, is also looking for ideas on how to make the event a bit greener—ie reduce waste generated. Michael will contact her with info on a NY festival that sent no waste to the landfill.

Next meeting date

March 16, 2010 at 8:30pm at the West Vincent township building—after the Northern Fed's trail meeting at West Vincent twp.

Kate Damsgaard
February 19, 2010

