

West Vincent Sustainability Committee
Tuesday, 17 May, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members in attendance: Ben James, Kip Archinal, Penny Fulton, Sam Cantrell, Bernie Couris, Bryan Sladky, Nicole Keegan and Tom Kalusky.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as submitted.

Green Drinks Report -

Green Drinks have been happening every fourth Wednesday of the month and have been reporting a moderate increase in attendance as well as “a good time had by all” every time. We still need to find someone besides Nicole who can invest some time in promoting the event.

Community Day Report -

Ben and Kip represented our committee at the event and provided interested participants with handouts about sustainability in West Vincent Township which, for example, described the Sustainability Committee and explained how to use the Township website to find information having to do with the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances and related documents.

Ben and Kip were able to involve 22 young citizens (only 17 of whom lived in our Township) in our “Sustainability Contest” which was offering a \$50 gift card as a prize to the best response to our challenge: “to be more sustainable, we can . . . “. Most of the submissions were very, very short and hard to accept as worthy of the substantial prize we had offered, but the lengthiest, which, in its two sentences, touched on lawn care, road care and recycling, was awarded the prize. We discussed honoring the winner, a student at West Vincent Elementary, at the school, at a Board of Supervisors meeting and possibly, if her mother approved, in an article in The Community Courier. Despite the lack of enthusiasm shown for our Sustainability Contest, the committee members still seemed to agree with Ben’s comment that “Community Day and our participation in it are totally worthwhile.”

Supervisors Report -

John Jacobs informed us that the new Township Manager, Erica Batdorf, was scheduled to begin work on July 5th. He also reported on the recent Supervisors meeting:

The Township has received some American Flags but is undecided about how to fly them, given the cost of either the labor of raising and lowering them every day or the environmental expense of keeping them lighted all night long, which is proper protocol for our national flag.

The Township is concerned that approving the recommendation from the Trash Task Force to name a trash hauling company as a preferred single provider for Township residents might not sit well with citizens who object to being told who their

garbage collector is going to be and might turn out to be a liability issue if any of the non selected haulers were to bring suit against the Township. So the Supervisors left the issue unresolved, neither approving it nor formally tabling it. John suggested that our committee might consider inviting Chip Farnham, the Chair of the Trash Task Force, to come and speak us about the Task Force and its recommendations.

Parks and Rec Commission Liason's report -

Bill Holderness gave us a brief list of upcoming events, such as Camping in the Park, Stargazing, Kite Making and learning about Night Wildlife.

Updating Initiatives in our Sustainability Plan -

We agreed that the sixty-one initiatives in our Sustainability Plan might be better understood and therefore better effectuated if they were grouped according to their topic. We threw together the following groups: Farming (Initiatives 5, 27, 28, 42, 43, 44), Green Building/Zoning (6, 14 initially), Water Quality (8, 9, 10, 11, 15), Ludwig's Corner (20, 22, 54, 55), Trails (21, 51, 52, 53), Trash, Composting, Mulch (29,30, 31, 32, 33) and Education (4, 8, 9, 15, 16, 58). We scheduled a full committee work session for Thursday June 26th, at the Township Building, to move forward with grouping and re-writing the original initiatives as well as composing a few new ones if we feel it necessary to do so.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20.