

HVGT Zoom Meeting Minutes via Zoom 10-14-21

In attendance: J. Held, S. Fulmer, C. Meyer, M. van Vuuren, D. Geurds (guest)

WEBSITE (Scott) Met with the Bruestles and listed some of the pros and cons of using their services. Site would work differently from our WordPress site now (missing static pages) and might take away some of our substance. This service would be free, although we will check with some of the municipalities to see if they might share in the cost. Scott and Joann will explore this further, with updates at our next GT meeting.

FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

Terra Preta Organic Waste Collection (guest speaker, Dolph Geurds) talked about how his business started and is using a 3 acre farm. 60% of landfill waste is biodegradable and produces methane gas. Uses static pile composting and 12-18 months later can screen and harvest it. Members get 5 gallon buckets and pick-up is weekly, with a clean bucket. Dolph picks up daily from restaurants and now services all HV schools! Now talking with Bordentown, Lambertville, Robbinsville, East Windsor and Newtown. Key is fungus! End product will be terra preta (black earth). NJ soon will be passing rules on restaurants to compost their food waste. Dolph is in the process of obtaining a composter's license and is working to expand his operation and is well-versed on soil biology.

YOUR PLASTIC FREE LIFE at PFM on October 16 (located in the band tent) and will be Customer Appreciation Day!

~ Yogurt Recipes and equipment

InstaPot, Rice Cooker, Incubator, Heavy pot in the oven

~ Plastic alternatives in the kitchen (compostable kitchen trash bags)

Beeswax wrap, Silicone pouches, Aluminum cans

~ Plastic alternatives around the house

Dental Floss

~ Reusable Bag Exchange

~ Staffing

GREEN TEAM GOALS FOR 2022 (scroll down to bottom of meeting minutes)

RECYCLING

~ Styrofoam: Exploring Options for Densifying - upcoming meetings - stay tuned!

From Joann: "We are slowly working our way through discussions with other folks in Mercer County about styrofoam. There's not much to report on that front, yet. However, if you have some styrofoam to get rid of and feel like a drive to Bristol, PA you might try dropping it off at RayBob Packaging. I spoke to them a couple of weeks ago and they said they are accepting small quantities of clean white styrofoam - remove labels and tape (no food containers, please)."

RayBob Packaging
6 River Rd, Bldg PP-6
Bristol PA 19007
(215) 943-4799

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pennington Farmers Market recycling days (9 am – 1 pm)

Oct. 30 - last recycling day of the season!

Recycling List (Updated)

Brita Products: Joann

Button cell batteries - Scott

Dental care products (toothpaste tubes with cap, toothbrushes, floss containers etc.) - Lynne

Stick deodorant containers - Lynne

Wine corks (not plastic) – Carol

Pur Filters: via Ace Hardware - Carol

Newspapers (Mercer Wildlife) – Chris Edwards / Michele N

Athletic Balls – tennis balls & baseballs (Cheapskate) Michele N

Cell Phones, Tablets, Cameras, etc (Wireless Alliance) – Carol

HOPEWELL VALLEY GREEN TEAM GOALS FOR 2022

Draft Sept 23, 2021

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFICATION

§ Assist Pennington Borough in the process of Re-certifying with Sustainable Jersey in 2022.

Note: Check to see if Hopewell Township and/or Hopewell Borough plan to Certify in 2022.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION with an emphasis on REDUCE/REUSE

§ Single Use Bag Ban (short-term plan is a “reusable bag swap”)

§ Energy Efficiency

§ Tips for Reducing Waste

§ Training for Correct Recycling

Note: Venues for education include monthly attendance at Pennington Farmers Market, Community events such as Pennington Day, Hopewell Harvest Fair, Mercer County GreenFest, and the events organized by the Hopewell Valley Arts Council.

Note: we would like to purchase a table cover with the Green Team’s name and logo so that we can be more visible at community events.

RECYCLING

§ Find a way to densify Styrofoam so that we can resume collection

Note: A long-term goal is to find a host for a recycling depot in the Valley

COLLABORATION

§ Continue to be actively involved in the HoVal Regional School District Green Team and the Mercer County Sustainability Coalition

§ Assist with the Pennington Borough Carbon Free by 2035 Initiative

§ Actively engage representatives of our 3 municipal governments