



LAMBERTVILLE: New environmental group SEEs city's future

By Linda Seida, Staff Writer

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LAMBERTVILLE — Little by little, step by step, a new environmental group is becoming established in Lambertville.

The organization, christened SEE Lambertville, was established in January 2007 to support people and projects dedicated to the city's sustainable future, according to co-founders Julia A. Taylor and Emily Goldman.

"Overall, we want to get people together to create a sustainable future for our community," Ms. Taylor said.

According to the Sustainability Leadership Institute, sustainability means "each of us doing our part to build the kind of world — economically, environmentally and socially — that we want to live in and one that we want our children and grandchildren to inherit. It means becoming aware of all interconnections — visible and invisible — in which our day to day choices affect the intricate balance of social, economic and ecological systems."

SEE Lambertville does not yet hold regular meetings, but plans to in 2009. Also next year, the group wants to look into the possibility of creating a community garden.

"We are more loosely organized now than we plan to be in the future as we take on long-term projects," Ms. Taylor said.

The group already has taken on a few smaller projects. For example, last week, SEE Lambertville held an event at the Lambertville Public Library where participants created holiday ornaments from recycled and found materials, such as soda cans and paper plates. Plans called for the ornaments to be used in the city's annual tree-lighting ceremony this week.

The "see" in SEE Lambertville stands for "social, environmental, economic — the three pillars of sustainability," Ms. Taylor said. "We use the acronym SEE in front of the name of the city because we want people to see their community from a new perspective of sustainability. We focus on the three pillars of sustainability because we don't believe that it's enough to focus on one or another. We take a holistic view to being responsible community members and responsible world citizens."

Ms. Taylor and Ms. Goldman both serve on the city's Environmental Commission, and they share a keen interest in sustainability. Ms. Taylor, the group's president, is a licensed planner who focuses on urban redevelopment and energy issues. She also helped organize the city's Green Fest earlier this year.

Ms. Goldman, the group's vice president, also is a licensed planner. Her focus is on environmental planning.

"Julia had the idea to begin a new environmental group in town about a year ago, at the time when she was working with the Friends of the Lambertville Library to create the Lambertville Green Fest," Ms. Goldman said.

A short time later, Ms. Taylor and Ms. Goldman met at the New Jersey Redevelopment Conference, and Ms. Goldman offered to help get SEE Lambertville off the ground.

"At that time, the goal was to create a citizen advocacy group that would work with the municipal government to make Lambertville green from the governmental perspective and would work to lead the citizenry by example," Ms. Goldman said. "Since then, we have decided to be purely a community group, though we hope to cooperate with the municipality, the school board, the Chamber of Commerce and other existing organizations to support sustainability in our community in a broad sense."

New members are welcome.

"We urge average citizens to do as much or as little as they can," Ms. Taylor said. "We encourage people to contact us and let us know their ideas for projects large or small. The group is open to anyone who lives or works in Lambertville. We want to invite as much community participation as possible."

For more information or to join, e-mail the organization at seelambertville@gmail.com.

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