



The Town of Fortville Calls a Convener's Council

August 18, 2017 – FORTVILLE, IN – On Wednesday, August 11, the Town of Fortville held a Convener's Council of local civic/not-for-profit leaders who are stakeholders in the success of the community, to share about upcoming events, resources, and visions. This was the first of a series of semi-annual events, held at the Fortville Town Hall.

Such collaboration efforts have greatly impacted peer communities, in terms of grant awards, needle-moving and cross-sector engagement, and strategic investment projects. The Town of Fortville pre-identified several reputable and impactful local organizations to attend this event, including:

- Fortville Action Inc.
- Fortville American Legion Post 391
- Fortville Christian Church
- Fortville Church of the Nazarene
- Fortville First United Methodist Church
- Fortville Lions Club
- Fortville/McCordsville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Fortville VFW Post 6904
- Fortville-Vernon Township Public Library
- Hancock County Arts Council
- Hancock County Community Foundation
- Hancock County Senior Services/Hancock Area Rural Transit
- Meals on Wheels of Hancock Co.
- Mt. Vernon Education Foundation
- Mt. Vernon Optimist Club
- Mt. Vernon School District
- Psi Iota Xi Sorority
- St. Thomas Catholic Church
- Ten West Center for the Arts
- The Bridge Church
- Town of Fortville
- United Way of Central Indiana
- Vernon Township

The idea for the event was prompted by recent Comprehensive Planning, community surveys, and success stories fellow towns realized with such collaboration.

In his remarks as a Convener's Council participant, Dr. Shane Robbins, Superintendent of Mt. Vernon School District, stressed that "Community partnerships like this are important to the school's mission, as well as the planning efforts of the community and every participant at the Convener's Council. There's nothing better than to see how these partnerships have already brought vibrancy and activity to Fortville's Main Street."

"In this first meeting, we made great headway in line with our purpose: to have an exchange of ideas amongst leaders of civic organizations, to coordinate & promote events, to leverage/share resources, and to increase community collaboration," Adam Zaklikowski, AICP, Planning Administrator for the Town of Fortville and event co-organizer, said.

Strategic discussion points of the Convener's Council centered around promotion of the Town; a community work day; opportunities for tutoring, mentorship, and volunteerism. An email Listserv will be created amongst participants to stay in contact.

"The timing of this event is focal, given the many well-received community events and comparatively significant infrastructure improvements that are coming up in Fortville. The



influencers on the Convener’s Council are key to expanding offerings in wellness, amenities, volunteerism, branding, and data tracking,” shared Lacey Willard, Fortville’s appointed Commissioner on the Hancock County Area Plan Commission, and event co-organizer. Organizations interested in having a representative on future Convener’s Council events can submit a request to Mr. Zaklikowski, azak@fortvilleindiana.org.