

Sustainability Meeting Minutes November 17, 2020

Present: Cindy Unangst, Chris Goodman, Mark Carney, Erin Carney, Agnesanne Danehey, Gene Fleeman, Bill Spare, Ann Payne, Sean O'Keefe

October Minutes were approved as read. Bill Spare was welcomed to the meeting.

- **The Cone Branch Tree Tagging project** is beginning with ID's by Dr. Roessler and Keith Staley, who recently visited the trail with Cindy.
- **The Lewis Corl Trail Dedication** (11/07) attracted 30 to 50 people. The event included two trees and one bench dedication. Bench sales are increasing but no more trees have sold to date. Goodman encouraged us to keep posting tree planting opportunities in the town's quarterly newsletters.
- **Foxfield residents** agreed upon an MOU. At least six signs now mark the conservation area. Residents will mow the west side. The town will cover pruning and tree care. Cindy is acting as contact person. Residents have been asked to use no fertilizers or chemicals on the property. Residents will care for the weeping cherries.
- **A Compost Bin order** may have to wait until fall. The last order has been sold. Twenty was a good number to order. The town fronts the money (\$36 each). We can ask for \$720 to see if the town board is willing to provide this, depending upon availability of staff to pick them up. We need a new organization to provide rain barrels.
- **Bee City and Tree City sign locations** are still under discussion. Cone Branch pocket park was suggested. Goodman suggested small signs for the larger parks, including county parks. Signs near a pollinator area would be ideal, perhaps off Coblenz. Town property between Memorial Park and Middletown Family Medicine Practice could be a site for a pollinator garden as well as a Bee City sign.
- **A theme for the new Library design** will be discussed at the 7:00pm, 12/16 Planning Commission Workshop. Could it be a GREEN theme?!

- **Basecamp** now offers Google docs for us to write, merge, build ideas, collect data. We can add new documents on Google Drive, Sheets, etc. “Campfire” is an informal Chat feature . We need to start designing our processes. The Bee City/Pollinator heading refers to town projects while Native Plant Landscaping refers to private land/homeowners. Those not wanting to participate in Base Camp can notify Mark.

Project funding: Tree City USA asks us to lay out a population-based budget. We have some funds left from the Green Expo. The town is willing to front tee shirts. We need clear expectations to recruit partner buy-in.

- A. Program Leaders: Mark - Bee City USA (town): Cindy & Erin - Composting: Agnesanne & Ann - Residential Native Landscaping. Gene and Bill will help. Residential landscaping and pollinator programs should include IPM. Each group will address scope of work, campaign strategy, and budget.

- **Library Greentalks.** Middletown Library asks us to produce a virtual presentation, possibly on pollinators. A storyboard is due Jan 15 for a March presentation. Our Comprehensive Plan might serve as a model. Librarian Gagne advises viewing “Discover Truffle Oil” as a model.
- **Online Resource Center:** Sustainable Maryland might help us build an online resource center. See website platform <https://www.wix.com>. Cindy shared a map of **local solar arrays**.
- **The M'town Comprehensive Plan** was reviewed. It lacks Pollinator and Dark Sky objectives. The distinction between headings and objectives needs to be clearer. It was suggested we format as Why then What, e.g., Goal then Objective 1, 2, etc. Cindy needs us to donate good photos of local parks. Cindy will be out of office until 12/01/20.
- **Tree City USA** requires an annual report prior to the end of the year. Cindy is working on that.
- **Future agenda:** discuss MD vs FredCo’s FRO and Riparian guidelines.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Payne