

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2019

Attendees: Mark Carney, Ann Payne, Joyce Tuten, Cindy Unangst, Pam McDonald, Jamie Moore, Doug Martin, Sean O'Keefe, Rick Detrick, Agnesanne Dannehey, David Lake

1. November meeting minutes approval
2. Green Expo: April 25th. We will partner with Coloring the Street event again. Cindy sent out a save-the-date email to past exhibitors.
3. 2019 Green Lecture Series
 - a. PB County Organics Composting Facility and Food Scrap Composting Pilot Program – C. Burr Artz Library – Thursday, December 12th at 6:30pm. 5 people attended, good discussion.
 - b. January 25 at 1 pm, talk by Bernadette with Multifaith Alliance of Climate Stewards (MACS) at Middletown Library
 - c. January – Joyce will be giving several presentations about climate change
 - d. February 15 at 1 pm, talk by Ann about The Hidden Life of Trees
 - e. Next year – Green Lecture series will be quarterly workshops potentially taking place at Hood College. In February: build a bee house and plant a pollinator patch. Future topics: how to read your electricity bill and take advantage of energy saving programs, another watershed hike. We would like Ann Marie Creamer to give a talk about recycling at the library.
4. EFC (Environmental Finance Center) – we are providing a letter of support for an EPA grant to help municipalities do pollution prevention outreach and projects (Cindy). Some ideas: electronics recycling, compost bins, rain barrels, storm drain stenciling
5. Cindy has a great idea about having a meet up for all county sustainability committees
6. Keep Maryland Beautiful grant application - submitted on Nov. 13th; notification of decision by March 20, 2020 (Cindy). If we get the grant, we can use it to plant more trees. Chesapeake Bay Foundation also has a grant of up to \$5k (the most funds are available in July, so this is the best time to apply).
7. Tree canopy letter – being distributed with water bills in January with a slick Sustainability Report Green Sheet
8. Five hundred trees will be planted in Wiles Branch park
9. MEA grant application submitted for \$29K for street light program
10. Tree City USA application due Dec 31. The sustainability committee will serve the role of a tree board. We should develop a municipal tree ordinance. The town will need a \$2 per capita (about \$9k) for tree related services, includes yard waste pickup, which it already meets. We also need a yearly arbor day proclamation.
11. Ann proposes we form a subcommittee to brainstorm ideas to fund a tree planting campaign for the year 2020
12. Composting program for Middletown Elementary School (Cindy, Mark) – Cindy and Joe Richardson met with the assistant principal last week. Plan to do a waste sort in January. Need to set up a meeting between Joe and the custodial and/or food services staff to get on board with a composting program. We need to find out who will be the champion of this program (students, teacher, or custodial/food services staff)? Compost coach idea to help oversee FCPS compost programs. Joe recommends the site www.Kisstheground.com for compost inspiration.

13. Pam attended the Rebuild Maryland Climate Action Summit—packed with good information. Pam will scan and email some of the handouts.
14. January meeting date – third Tuesday – January 21st. In the January meeting, we will discuss future goals for our committee.