

Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: December 15, 2020

Zoom meeting: 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

In attendance: Cindy Unangst, Gene Freeman, Mark Carney, Agnesanne J. Danehey, Jessica Elder, Ann Payne, Erin Carney, Pam McDonald, Sean O'Keefe

Meeting discussion items:

1. November meeting minutes approved.
2. This Zoom meeting was being recorded.
3. Potential new members of committee – John Lain has expressed interest but is not sure he will join yet. Jessica Elder participated in the November meeting and has joined the Green Team.
4. Tree trail at Cone Branch Trail—Dr. Roessler is researching some tree tags that will give more information about each tree. He has ID'd about 30 trees on the Cone Branch Trail to get these ID tags. Cindy has tagged the trees with orange flags.
5. Compost bins – Greenbelt has extra that we can purchase, but we would need to pick them up. Chris Goodman had shown willingness to pick some up, if needed. He was not present this evening to give an update on his ability to do this.
6. Tree City sign. Cindy indicated a good location for the sign would be at Memorial Park (underneath Memorial Park sign seemed to look best) and the pocket park at Cone Branch and E. Main Street.
7. Bee City USA (Mark) – BASECAMP project - Cost to operate BASECAMP is \$1,000/year and will allow the team to use all of the features of the site. Cindy reported that there are funds in the Green Team budget to finance this.

Mark will be setting up Google docs to be used by team on BASECAMP over the holidays. Bee City USA, Residential native planting initiative and the community composting project are set up in BASECAMP so far.

8. Public Education campaign working group. Green Talks via Zoom with the Library: Ann reported that the library wanted a Bee City video to explain what Middletown will be doing. A small working group is doing a story board for the video—it will vary in length from 10-30 minutes. Jessica is willing to add her expertise to this project. They will post to BASECAMP about progress and upcoming meetings.
9. Online Resource Center – Gene Fleeman is working on this. Gene reported he is working on subdomain name for Sustainable team website on [wix.com sustainable.middletown.md.us](https://wix.com/sustainable.middletown.md.us) —looking at plans for this and found one for \$18/month and that there is a 50% off offer. Middletown is on the govoffice platform and we would need to register the subdomain name with them. Gene is building out a new website on wix. He shared his progress so far—he has integrated text from the comprehensive plan in to the site. Gene will also start a new YouTube channel for the sustainability committee. Gene and Mark volunteered to donate funds to fund the website for the first year.
10. Comprehensive Plan Sustainability chapter—Town board took first look at it on 12/14/20. Planning commission has not seen it yet (they have a lot on their plate right now) and there is not a rush to submit it.

Cindy commented that she would like to complete it in a timely manner and have it be comprehensive. Cindy noted that formatting and editing still needs to be completed and that the town administrative assistant will be able to provide that for the committee.

11. Foxfield Section 6 FRO and walking trails. Cindy reviewed plans—developer would like to have paved walkway around active adult community but would not have sidewalks in the development. This is against the town ordinance and the town would like at least a sidewalk on one side of the street—will be discussed at 12/28 meeting. There must be a 100' buffer zone and some of the lots the developer has laid out overlap with the buffer zone in some areas. This needs to be remedied. 94 acre development total. The new library concept plan will be presented at the planning commission on Wednesday and all comments are welcome.
12. Erin Carney reported on the community composting project. keycompost.com. The cost for this has been put into the 2021 town budget. Location for compost collection will be on concrete pad over by Fratellis/Baskin Robbins.
13. New town board commissioner to be elected and that person may be the chair of the Sustainability Committee.
14. January meeting date – third Tuesday – January 19th