

Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Time: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 from 5:00- 6:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

On Zoom: Cindy Unangst, Edamarie Mattei/Backyard Bounty, Bill Spare, Erin Carney, Kevin Stottlemeyer, Gene Fleeman, Pam McDonald, Mark Carney, Ann Payne, Kristin King, Adam Stanzione, Andrew Landsman, Abby LaPadula, Quinn Carney, Cari Wolf, Jamie, Sean O'Keefe, Joe Richardson (guest).

Meeting Agenda items discussed:

1. December meeting minutes approved.
2. Lunch Out of Landfills: (Joe Richardson). Joe reported about the Maryland senate and house bill (HB 150) that could fund (\$500,000 in funding) the LOLF projects in Frederick County. He reported that the students are creating postcards that we can fill out and mail to the Maryland Legislature. The team agreed to help send in the postcards when they are created. Joe also discussed the NexTrex Challenge that collects any plastic wrap, bubble wrap, plastic bags. These plastics can be processed by TREX for their products. Joe would like Middletown to have a central drop off point for plastics. These are plastics that cannot be recycled in our current County recycling stream. Mark and Kevin shared that the town recently had to stop our town recycling drop off because of abuses by people dumping trash at the site. They did not think the town would be ready for another drop off site. Bill Spare noted that there are plastic bag and film drop off sites for Trex at local grocery stores: Safeway, Food Lion, Giant Eagle, Wegmans, Weis, Martins, Kohls. See this link: https://recycle.trex.com/?utm_source=Release&utm_medium=PR&utm_campaign=Schools
3. Erin needs help with food recovery from elementary school to food bank. She is willing to do it once a week and is flexible. Need a volunteer to help move heavy coolers from the school to the food bank on Tuesday or Friday at 12:30-12:45 pm. Need to coordinate with food bank and help them unload food items into their refrigeration.
4. Lunch out of Landfills report from Cari: Abby LaPadula has been the lead at the Elementary school. Since the inception of the program, recycling has picked up again at the school. 80% reduction in waste since the program started in December. Data collection to date: 40-50% of what is collected is compostable. Two weeks ago, Erin began transporting unopened food to Middletown food bank. They are tracking what they are donating. Also reported that the Middle school was also interested in the program starting with the sixth graders. Abby also hoping to get it up and running at the high school by next year. Green Expo idea: Booth opportunity for students to present about LOLF.
5. New member introduction: Andrew Landsman—Lives in Foxfield neighborhood; has a background in invertebrates (bees in particular); works with national park service. Welcome Andrew!
6. Goals for 2022 and updated Annual Report: A Look at Where We Are—we will focus on this in the February meeting. Cindy plans to use the Sustainable Maryland report to help guide our goals for this year.
7. Outreach and Communications sub-Committee report to team: Pam presented draft Outreach communications plan to team (See attached document). The subcommittee committed to meeting weekly to ramp up operations. Robin M will do article on composting project in the February issue of Middletown Magazine and a Green Expo/tree article in April.

8. Envision Frederick Green Teams Webinar: Thursday, February 10 at 7 p.m. Envision is sponsoring a Zoom meeting with Frederick County Green Teams. Cindy will present and can have a powerpoint, if desired. Cindy will share Zoom invitation to Green Team members. Green Teams participating include Middletown, Frederick, Urbana, Thurmont,
9. BASECAMP projects:
 - Pollinator demonstration gardens – Edamarie asked for more information about plating the Eyebrow at Foxfield. She would like to plant native trees in this area. She suggested native Oak trees that have been altered for size. The original intent was for the team to plant to fill in gaps. Future may mean we can do more extensive native planting.
 - Memorial Garden—Edamarie is looking at sturdy plants, long blooming, long-living, blooms from Feb-Nov. Backyard Bounty will provide (donate) plants for Memorial garden. She will email her plant suggestions to the team.
 - Memorial pollinator garden care schedule—Pam has drafted this and is finalizing with Ann.
 - Bee City USA—renewal application due by end of Feb. Cindy will begin working on this app this week.
 - Compost project—Cindy presented Janet Fox’s designs that are customized for the Middletown Compost project and the team discussed starting the 90 day pilot program in early March. Cindy will be sure that a flyer is included in the April town newsletter. The composting info will be in the Middletown Magazine in February. Erin reported that the final design for the compost station is still being discussed.
6. Tree plantings – Potomac Edison program. Gene has created a page for the Potomac Edison Tree program. He reported that 15 people want to volunteer with tree planting; 8 people want help with picking out/planting trees. Loraxers will meet next week to help decide variety of native trees to be offered and where to plant the town trees. Kevin said town will probably be willing to fund for more trees (Potomac Edison can supply up to 200 trees). Earth day and Arbor Day are two consecutive weekends to distribute trees to residents and plant town trees on Arbor Day.
7. Mosquito control in Town stormwater management facilities. Cindy shared town maps that show stormwater basins that often contain still water (about half contain still water). Kevin said this could be an opportunity for educating residents about sustainable methods. The team discussed variables such as type of mosquito and habitat will inform the best mitigation strategy. Ann reported that she believes that the State would be helpful to address this issue. Budget and town staff resources should be minimal.
8. Green Expo 2022 – Saturday, April 23rd (Friday, April 22nd is Earth Day). To be held at Memorial park again. We will showcase Pollinator Garden and Compost drop off site. Will be doing a lot of publicity for this: in Middletown Neighbors magazine; Town water bill mailing, Facebook/Instagram postings. Live music needs to be decided (Cindy presented info about Craig Rosendale musician and his fee of \$175/hour), Monarch Pledge declaration, Girl Scout Gold award table on Monarchs, plant a tree/Earth Day, free tree distribution.
9. Next Tree Maintenance at Wile Branch Park will be Tuesday, January at 2 p.m. Cindy is looking for volunteers to help her care for the saplings.
10. Next meeting: 3rd Tuesday: February 15th, 2022 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

GOALS FOR 2021:

PLANT 100 TREES IN 2021 – 25 planted 4/30 (75 shrubs planted in 2021)				
CREATE A TREE GIFT PROGRAM - GOAL OF \$1000 –				
QUANTIFY/SHOW PROGRESS [MEASURABLE GOAL NEEDED] ON 25% CANOPY BY 2025				
HOLD VIRTUAL GREEN EXPO - ✓				
SUPPORT MES LOOL PROGRAM - FINANCIAL/VOLUNTEER SUPPORT -				
PROMOTE & SELL 20 COMPOSTING BINS –				
PROMOTE & SELL 25 RAIN BARRELS (GRANT REQUEST)				
EVALUATE & RECOMMEND STREETLIGHT BUYBACK PROGRAM TO TOWN BOARD				
CREATE 2 AC POLLINATOR MEADOW NEAR SOLAR ARRAY				
EDUCATION ON STORMWATER PERMIT PROGRAMS				

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Green lectures series
- Habitat advisor volunteers

FUTURE PLANTING AREAS:

- North Pointe thicket (see Ann P.) – willow tree and button bushes

TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

December 7 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – Wiles Branch FRO area
 December 17 (Friday) 10-11:30am – Wiles Branch FRO area
 December 21 (Tuesday) time TBD – Wiles Branch FRO area

March 8 (Tuesday) 12:30-2pm – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane
 March 15 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane
 March 18 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane

April 5 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – North Pointe plantings
 April 12 (Tuesday) 12:30-2pm – North Pointe plantings

May 10 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am - FRO area off Layla Drive
 May 20 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area off Layla Drive

June 3 (Friday) 10-11:30am – Wiles Branch dog park
 June 7 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – Cone Branch pocket park
 June 17 (Friday) 10-11:30am – Cone Branch pocket park