

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2018

Attendees: Cindy Unangst, Ann Payne, Jamie Moore, Sean O'Keefe, Rick Dietrick

1. January minutes approved
2. Next meetings will be March 21 and April 11 (April meeting moved up one week so we can meet prior to the Green Expo)
3. Green Expo
 - a. Date for next year was changed to April 14
 - b. About a dozen exhibitors have responded so far. Cindy will reach out to other potential exhibitors. An initial flyer will go out soon with the list of confirmed exhibitors with an invitation for others to participate. Cindy will also contact the Valley Citizen for an early "save the date" kind of story.
 - c. We are within our budget of \$1300 (\$200 to revise large banner, \$125 for advertising, the bank is not co-sponsoring this year but did agree to make a \$200 donation, Main Street will pay half of E-end's \$475 bill, Scales & Tales invoice only \$200 this year).
 - d. Sean will check to see if he can get more recycling vendors (denim, bicycles, etc. as present at the Boonsboro green event).
3. 2018 Green Talks –
 - a. Lisa Orr talk (February)– only 6 attendees.
 - b. March Green Talk date with Nancy Lawson (library has put this on their schedule on March 24 at 12:30, will need to notify them if this changes)
 - c. April presentations at Green Expo: Master Gardener Ellen West will give a Baywise Park talk. Phil Wescott on composting? Beekeepers association? Need to confirm other speakers.
4. Pollinator Meadow – Ann recently visited the site and reports "it looks like a pile of mud." Ann or Cindy will contact Dr. Tangren--need a sustainability plan for the meadow. Cindy talked with Susan Trice to request master gardeners to help maintain pollinator meadow. Ms. Trice responded that Master Gardeners are supposed to be involved in education, not labor. Possible plan for landscape company to install neighboring pollinator meadow? Will have to check with Dr. Tangren.

5. MEA Energy Action Plan – We have \$25K to spend on projects this year. This year's plan is to install new light poles in downtown area with LED lights; hopefully the grant can help with this; waiting to hear back from MEA. Plan B: 8 HVAC units for Municipal Center; 2 need to be replaced. Boiler also needs to be replaced (converting from fuel oil to natural gas).
6. Forest Resource Ordinance (FRO) Easement inspections – Cindy, Jamie, and Joyce went to Glenbrook to inspect FRO easements; many blue tubes still on trees, causing damage to trunks. Golf course owner and supervisor plan to remove them, Cindy will monitor progress.
7. Ann spoke with Ben Fritton (works with Forested in Bowie, MD), a soil ecologist and permaculturist, who helps restore land; potentially would like to join Green Team later this summer.
8. Essential Oils workshop for Mountain Spirit Yoga March 18 - will help advertise on our Facebook page
9. Frederick County Green Homes challenge, about 40 Middletown residents involved. Idea that Middletown should challenge other Frederick communities. Should put on FB page. Possible recognition of participants at Green Expo.
10. Cindy received email from Jennifer Falcinelli asking if the Green Team would like to take over the rain barrel project. The town used to get grant money for rain barrels, but more recently the town has paid ½ cost, residents pay ½ cost (about \$40); advance reservations needed to get rain barrel. Should we change the pick-up time/location to the Green Expo instead of the Municipal Center? Plan to raffle one rain barrel at Green Expo again this year. How about compost bins?
11. Buffer in a Bag program (DNR and Potomac watershed partnership)—provides bags containing 25 bare root trees and shrubs suitable for waterside environment; need reservation in by March; trees available by early April. Cindy has list of all town properties adjacent to streams—plans to send info to these residents. Cindy posted \$25 native tree coupon on FB page.
12. Cindy submitted application for Maryland PLANT bronze award; awards will be mailed in mid-March.
13. Ann recommends reading *The Hidden Lives of Trees*, which is a really great book.
14. email from Burgess Miller: signage ideas for town parks based on signs from Catocin Zoo.

15. Dowd property adjacent to Safeway—Cindy talked to a guy clearing trees without permission, then contacted Mark Lancaster. She has not received a forest conservation plan from them. Cindy spoke with DNR - definition of forest is based on certain density and size of trees. Cindy will request the field data for the Dowd property to see if it qualifies.