

Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Time: 5 p.m.- 6:20 p.m.

Zoom meeting: This meeting was recorded and is archived on BASECAMP.

Participants: Cindy Unangst, Mark Carney, Bill Spare, Erin Carney, Agnesanne Danehey, Jessica Elder, Ann Payne, Gene Fleeman, Pam McDonald, Sean O'Keefe

1. January meeting minutes approved.
2. Virtual Green Expo: 14 “vendors” interested in participating on Facebook during April Virtual Green Expo. Team discussed having each organization make the Facebook posts and supply needed video. They will submit their audio to Jessica for posting. Mark will make a virtual green expo folder in BASECAMP.
3. Social Marketing Update: For March, Facebook will focus on Pollinators and activities to fulfill Middletown’s Pollinator pledge. Ann Payne will share digital post cards of Maryland State Park recommended native plants. This will get uploaded to BASECAMP and Jessica can post on Facebook and Gene can add to the GreenMiddletown.com website. Mark will organize BASECAMP with folders for uploading resources for pollinator plants and info on the website. Jessica reminded team that she is looking for March tips for pollinator gardens that we can add to spreadsheet on BASECAMP. The spreadsheet is located under Community Engagement/Docs.
4. Video update: Jessica has downloaded files for the video and is starting to review. Agnesanne posted consent and video release agreement to BASECAMP.
5. Lunch out of landfills: This Program is on hold as it looks like no volunteers will be allowed in schools this spring.
6. Tree plantings: DNR reached out with free trees—we were willing to take 50 in 5 gallon or smaller. DNR will give us 25 trees and want it to be tied in to another tree planting. There is another \$1,000 grant pending form MUMFC and then we would have 75 total trees to plant. Possible planting locations: Cone Branch Pocket park —rain garden and good place for plants that like wet area.
7. Monarch Pledge: Burgess Miller committed the town to 14 items to do this year. Some of the items are done. Some are items that will need support of town council including help with creating ordinances to promote reducing light pollution and eliminate use of chemicals harmful to pollinators (#s 11 and 14)
#7 Issue proclamation— done on March 1, 2021
#10 support or host (library would host) a native plant sale, giveaway or swap—this has been discussed—need a volunteer to manage event.
#12 and #14 done with Bee City initiative
8. Rain Barrel program: The town received reduced pricing through grants and Scott Key Center in the past—we have no leads on new supplier and reduced pricing. The team discussed possibilities—Could this be an Eagle Scout project? One Scout was going to build a gutter system and rain barrel education site around teaching pavilion at school, however, this was not approved because it was not large enough.
9. New liaison for Sustainability committee will join the committee in March.
10. Sustainability Chapter: Town is starting to look at Sustainability chapter—will look at goals first—which is new. Cindy is looking for feedback. She will send out word doc that we can add tracked edits. It will go on BASECAMP.

11. Compost Bins: None have been requested.

12. Website: New website and email for the online resource center URL is GreenMiddletown.com and greenteam@ci.middletown.md.us Gene has procured the domain and email address. Gene would like more info about composting to add to website.

13. Flags and Signs: More Tree City flags have been purchased. Bee City Sign locations in town to be determined as we will locate them where there will be pollinator gardens. Question about pollinator plants in Main Street planters—Janet Fox is leading this project for the town.

Possible locations for pollinator gardens: West Green Street pocket park at Willow—benches and pollinators?

-Waste water areas

-Next to Memorial park war monument.

14. Next Sustainability Meeting date is March 16 at 5 p.m. on Zoom.