

Middletown Sustainability Committee Minutes

Time: February 21, 2023, 05:00 PM Eastern Time - 6:30 PM

Attendance: In person and via Lifesize: Cindy Unangst, Gene Fleeman, Pam McDonald, Guest-Lenora Grackin/Middletown librarian, Kevin Stottlemyer, Lexi Sassi—attended meeting and is interested in joining the Green Team, Agnesanne Danehey, Ann Payne, Sean O’Keefe, Bill Spare.

Meeting minutes:

1. January meeting minutes approval with one edit needed from Cindy.
2. Little Seed Library – discussion with guest Lenora Grackin from Middletown Library. Lenora brought brochures about the Seed Library. Shared handouts: What is a seed library and how it works. Purpose is to encourage home gardening, create community and share results. They are only accepting open pollinated, heirloom, or organic seeds to be donated to the seed library. Will be posting a disclaimer as they cannot guarantee seeds. Will have vegetables, flowers, herbs, native plant seeds, tree seeds. March 25 will be kick-off of the seed library with a master gardener presenting about the benefits of seed saving. Partnering with the REED Center/Ben Friton throughout the year. Will have a booth at the Green Expo and will offer seed bomb making. The Green Team will post her events on our website. Lenora wondered about planting a native plant garden talk in May instead of September. Ann will contact Eda Marie about offering this program on May 13. Could she offer the talk on-site?
3. Green Lecture series with library (Ann) – Electrify Everything with Kathleen Rall and Barb Trader – huge turnout again!; Karen Whitehair program – Why Pollinator Gardens Matter - on March 11th at 1:00pm. Cindy shared the flyer and will send to Gene to be put on our website. Gene asked about following up with Jessica Elder about editing the video/audio from the Electrify Everything presentation.
4. Outreach sub-committee report – Pollinator protection yard signs or door-hangers. Team discussed volunteers to help distribute the door hangers. Volunteers from high school and maybe Girl Scouts to help distribute. Town WaterBill for April will have a whole flyer or one-page for Green Expo and Arbor Day tree planting event.
5. Green Expo – Saturday, April 22nd – sent out Save-the-Date email – good response so far; still looking for a food truck. Cindy is following up with vendors who have not replied. Will have some kid’s projects with MUMC and the Seed Library.
6. Bee City USA – Cindy submitted the annual report due at the end of the month. We have paid our fees for this year.
7. Pollinator demonstration gardens – Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle planting; pollinator garden care and watering schedule. Discussion of the Foxfield native pollinator gardens and the NorthCreek order that Mark has organized resulted in the decision to schedule a Pollinator Co. meeting to review available plants from NorthCreek ASAP as plants can quickly be out of stock. Cindy shared Eda Marie’s plans and lists and then the committee can decide how to move forward. Existing non-native plants at the site will need to be removed and the ground prepped for planting. A lot still to coordinate. Cindy discussed the Sustainability teams budget—\$7,000 for the year. She needs to research expenses to date, but believes that most of the budget is available. Pam will coordinate the pollinator committee meeting and include Eda Marie. Cindy also discussed the proposed 55+ community landscaping plans and there are two perennials that need to be

GIFT TREE PROGRAM - GOAL OF \$1000 –				
QUANTIFY/SHOW PROGRESS ON 25% CANOPY BY 2025				
HOLD GREEN EXPO -				
SUPPORT MES & MMS LOOL PROGRAM - VOLUNTEER SUPPORT -				
PROMOTE & SELL 20 COMPOSTING BINS – 5 sold				
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:

- Habitat advisor volunteers

TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

February 21 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – FRO area at Wiles Branch Park

March 10 (Friday) 10:30-11:30pm – FRO area at Wiles Branch Park

March 14 (Tuesday) 12:30-2pm – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane

March 17 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane

March 22 (Wednesday) 2-3:30pm – FRO area at Alt40/Knoll Side Lane