

## Memorandum

To: Middletown Sustainability Committee

From: Cindy Unangst, Staff Planner

Date: March 8, 2021

**RE: March Green Team Virtual meeting agenda for Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Cindy Unangst is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: March Sustainability Committee meeting**  
**Time: Mar 16, 2021 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

### Join Zoom Meeting

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88108862611?pwd=azhUT00yODRTSEhhSXkxd3U0cUhSQ09>**

**Meeting ID: 881 0886 2611**

**Passcode: 685664**

**One tap mobile**

**+13017158592,,88108862611#,,,,\*685664# US (Washington DC)**

**Dial by your location**

**+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)**

**Meeting ID: 881 0886 2611**

**Passcode: 685664**

**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88108862611?pwd=azhUT00yODRTSEhhSXkxd3U0cUhSQ09>**

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### Meeting discussion items:

1. Introduce newest town commissioner Kevin Stottlemyer
2. February meeting minutes approval
3. BASECAMP projects:
  - Pollinator library video
  - Bee City USA (Mark)
  - Pollinator demonstration locations/schedule
  - Community Engagement
  - GreenMiddletown Website
4. Green Expo – virtual event to take place in April
5. Comprehensive Plan Sustainability chapter
6. Tree plantings and Tree City USA
7. Mayors Monarch Pledge – 14 action items to work on!
8. Recycling bin discussion

9. Compost bins – Greenbelt has extra that we can purchase, but we would need to pick them up.
10. Photo op!!! We will take a screen shot of everyone participating in the meeting to put on the wix website.
11. Video op! Brief video of everyone in Zoom meeting saying ??? for library video
12. April meeting date – third Tuesday – April 20<sup>th</sup>

**GOALS FOR 2021:**

PLANT <b>100</b> TREES IN 2021 –							
CREATE A TREE GIFT PROGRAM - GOAL OF <b>\$1000</b> –							
QUANTIFY/SHOW PROGRESS [ <b>MEASURABLE GOAL NEEDED</b> ] ON 25% CANOPY BY 2025							
HOLD VIFRTUAL 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 <b>2 AC</b> POLLINATOR MEADOW NEAR SOLAR ARRAY							
EDUCATION ON STORMWATER PERMIT PROGRAMS							

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Green lectures series
- Habitat advisor volunteers
- Lunch out of Landfills

## 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](http://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 info name is [GreenMiddletown.com](http://GreenMiddletown.com) and [info@greenmiddletown.com](mailto:info@greenmiddletown.com). 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.



## Action Items

### Communications and Convening:

Action #	Action
1	Issue a Proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat.
2	Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
3	Engage* with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
4	Engage* with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.
5	Engage* with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
6	Engage* with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
7	Engage* with developers, planners, and landscape architects to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

\*Engage includes: in-person meetings, conferences and summits, trainings, or regular communication through email, phone, social media, etc.

Program and Demonstration Gardens:

Action #	Action
10	Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
12	Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent community location.
15	Launch or maintain an outdoor education program in school gardens that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, teachers, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
17	Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

Systems Change:

Action #	Action
24	Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

25	Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed where appropriate.
28	Change ordinances so pesticide, herbicide, insecticide or other chemicals used in the community are not harmful to pollinators.
29	Adopt ordinances that support reducing light pollution.