

## 5-17-2022 Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes - APPROVED

In person and via Lifesize attendance: Cindy Unangst, Gene Fleeman, Bill Spare, Kris Colby, Dr. Paul Leisnman (guest speaker), Erin Carney, Kevin Stottlemeyer, Pam McDonald

Time: Tuesday, May 17, 2022; 5:00 PM- 6:30 PM

Meeting Minutes:

1. Guest speaker – Dr. Leisnman, UMD joined the meeting to discuss non-toxic mosquito control and what he can present to the Middletown Green Talks in June. He discussed what other towns (Baltimore, DC, College Park) have been doing. Number one step is a strong education campaign about sustainable practices for residents. Dr Leisnman works mainly with aquatic insects, primarily with mosquitos. Tiger Mosquito breeds in back yards in small amounts of water and can breed and emerge in 7 days—could be natural or manmade—guttering, toys, buckets, pot saucers. BTI-natural bacterium is good for adding to water, if it cannot be dumped. Education, monitoring campaign—once a week tip out all water in backyards. Tiger mosquitos don't fly far but may get them from neighbors' yards. To manage mosquitos, need a community-based approach. Biogenes produces commercial and residential traps—GAT traps (\$40-60 for 2 traps). In a research study, Dr. Leisnman got half of households in College Park to buy traps and monitor them—results showed that the traps significantly reduce the population of tiger mosquitos. This 2017 study is now being followed up 5 years later by Dr. Leisnman to see if residents keep deploying the traps. Traps do require monthly maintenance—can be a barrier to residents. Stormwater basin mosquitos—need to ID the type of mosquitos there. Some of these types can travel for miles but many are not attracted to humans. Collect samples and can take to an Extension office. Late May to end of September is peak time. Water retainment areas could use more vegetation; seed with fish; add a pump to circulate the water. Maryland Dept of Agriculture Mosquitos control unit—lots of good information for residents. Dr. Leisnman is available to do Green Talk for Middletown in June. Will coordinate with Ann for the talk at the library.
2. Green Lecture series with library (Ann)—Ann was not able to attend meeting, so Cindy will follow up with her. Our first Green Lecture series topic will be on Sustainable Mosquito Control for residents.
3. April meeting minutes approved with one edit.
4. Website updates (Gene) – Green Expo photos still need to be uploaded. Gene was interested in assistance to create a creative layout of tree photos for the website. Gene is working on a Partners Page with links to local and state resources, Frederick County Green Teams, etc. Gene ran website usage analytics through WIX host, and it shows the growth of use of our website over the past year. Patty reported that on the town website/sustainability committee: 783 hits in last 2 months. Gene is also working on a new page for our website that outlines Privacy/Terms of Use disclosures.
5. Bee City USA – renewal application submitted end of February—Cindy has not received confirmation of renewal yet. The committee is aware that we will need to start working on IPM for next year's submittal.
6. Pollinator demonstration gardens –No Mow May question on FB page. The team discussed no mow May and did not think it feasible for Middletown. A better approach would be teaching more residents about reducing lawn size and planting with native plants. Town of Middletown maintenance looked at hose bib at doctor's office—Putman Plumbing will repair it and town will pay. Then we will use the hose and water to water our garden. House on Main Street with meadow garden was mentioned as an example of what residents could do instead of lawns. Kevin has contact and will get more information.
7. Compost project – bin site at Memorial Park—latest weight of compost collected in March—was 590 lbs., April was 534 lbs.; End of May will be end of 3-month trial period and Kevin feels it is being successful and

will recommend that the town continue to fund through the year. Middletown is the first town in Frederick County to offer the community site. Compost bins available for purchase at municipal center.

8. Lunch Out Of Landfills – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students composting at MMS. When they graduate to 7<sup>th</sup> next year, they will take the program with them. NexTrex program continues at MES. Joe Richardson will present at Myersville elementary to start LOOL in the fall.
9. Tree plantings – Potomac Edison program on Arbor Day—went great! Had over 40 volunteers planting trees around town. Bill Spare assisted leading several groups with planting. Certificate of Appreciation to Lion’s Club volunteers will be distributed. For the Tree planting maintenance schedule, see below. Potomac Edison asked if the town would like to do Tree program again next year and we agreed that we will.
10. Keep Maryland Beautiful grant application for EarthPlanter trees was awarded. Cindy is identifying where the tree planter containers will be located along Main Street. She has reached out to Stadler’s for price check.
  - 4 North Pointe resident mentioned need for trees in the back of lot where it is very steep and off the town walking path. Cindy will keep this in mind for future planting.
  - Dr. Roessler continues to work on a new native tree trail along the Cone Branch Trail. Bethany from the Frederick County Forestry Board will help with identification.
11. Tree City USA – no new update
12. Gift Tree Program – flyer boxes at Wiles Branch Park, Memorial Park and on Cone Branch Trail – please monitor as you frequent those areas
13. Green Expo – follow-up discussion: The town would like us to be sure that we either have our own day for Green Expo or if we share the date that we share the same physical space with the Coloring the Streets festival. The two locations were difficult for town staff to manage. The team agreed that having our own day would be best so we could keep the event at Memorial Park.
14. Recycling materials event during Bulk Trash Day on October 8: paint recycling; metal; paper; textiles. The Textile Recycling was very successful—almost 1 ton of material was collected that day. Cindy will look into the feasibility of holding this new event.
15. Rain barrels – Cindy is exploring the possibility of the Frederick County Career & Technology School’s Transitional Skills class making rain barrels for the town. They are gathering more information from the county on how this might be possible.
16. Coming up in September: Green Team will have a booth at the annual Heritage Festival.
17. June meeting date – third Tuesday – June 21<sup>st</sup>

**GOALS FOR 2022:**

PLANT <b>100</b> TREES IN 2022 –					
CREATE A TREE GIFT PROGRAM - GOAL OF <b>\$1000</b> –					
QUANTIFY/SHOW PROGRESS ON <b>25%</b> CANOPY BY <b>2025</b>					
HOLD GREEN EXPO -					

SUPPORT MES & MMS LOOL PROGRAM - 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:**

- Habitat advisor volunteers

**FUTURE PLANTING AREAS:**

- North Pointe – willow tree and button bushes at thicket (Ann P.); along slope behind houses.

**TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE**

**May 10 (Tuesday) 1-2:30pm - FRO area off Layla Drive**

**May 18 (Wednesday) 12:30-2:00pm – FRO area off Layla Drive**

**May 24 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – Middletown Parkway pruning; North Pointe–pruning & staking**

**June 3 (Friday) 2-2:30pm – Wiles Branch dog park**

**June 7 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – Cone Branch pocket park**

**June 17 (Friday) 10-11:30am – Cone Branch pocket park**

**July 15 (Friday) 10-11:30am– maple tree pruning at Remsberg Park?**