

Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was hosted on Zoom and is archived on Basecamp

Date: May 18, 2021

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Participants: Cindy Unangst, Kevin Stottlemyer, Agnesanne Danehey, Bill Spare, Gene Fleeman, Erin Carney, Pam McDonald, Mark Carney, Ann Payne

Meeting Minutes:

1. April meeting minutes approved.
2. BASECAMP projects:
 - Pollinator library video—in process. Jessica is working on final version.
 - Bee City USA (Mark): Pollinator demonstration location/schedule—Pollinator plants arriving the last week of May. ID'd location next to pavilion at Memorial Park. Phil will cut into lawn by June 4. First planting will be Saturday, June 5 beginning at 9 a.m. Town staff will mulch plants with Leaf Gro. Put on Listserv for town to get volunteers, Facebook, etc. Pam will bring electric tiller and cord, if needed, prior to June 5. Town has outdoor spray paint to outline planting areas for each species, if needed. Discussed ideas to encourage homeowners/neighborhoods to create pollinator gardens—possibly fundraise and sell pollinator plants from Northcreek? Will need to develop volunteer team to do maintenance and weeding.
3. Budget (Kevin and Cindy): Committee will be a line item in town budget @ \$4,000/year! Items that can be funded will include expenses for the webpage.
4. Tree plantings and Tree City USA (Cindy): Tree planting event on Arbor Day- Agnesanne and Mark did most of the planting. Six high school students also participated. Becky Wilson from DNR, stopped by and brought Tree City USA Growth Award for Middletown. This is a great accomplishment for our second year as a Tree City.
5. There is an opportunity for article about the Green Team and Tree City designation for Middletown Magazine. Cindy will follow up with Robin Maliszewskyj.
6. Mayors Monarch Pledge – Girl Scout Gold Award project: The Girl Scout interested in doing a pollinator project will be coming to June 3 town meeting to present her plan.
7. Compost bins – Greenbelt has extra that we can purchase, but we would need to pick them up.
8. Memorial Tree Program: The team discussed increased marketing of the program. It was suggested to install a weather-protected handout box by the Cone Branch Trail with information about the program—next to the existing memorial trees.
9. Herbicide use in Middletown: Cindy verified that the town has stopped using herbicides. The Town's contractor is using the herbicides and needs to stop—they will be notified to cease using herbicides at the Wiles Branch Dog park and any other locations.
10. Bat Houses: Kevin shared information on Bat House B&Bs and wondered if they could be used in Middletown for natural pest management. Cindy noted that there are two bat houses on Cone Branch Trail. More information at <https://www.batbnb.com/>.
11. June meeting date – third Tuesday – June 15th