

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes from July 18, 2018

Attendees: Cindy Unangst, Rick Dietrick, Mark Carney, Doug Martin, Keith Staley, Sean O'Keefe, Ann Payne

1. June minutes approved

2. Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 15 (5 to 6:30 pm)

3. Green Expo:

a. Date for next year: April 27—Cindy checked with All Shred and E-end for their availability, and heard from All Shred that they are available that day. E-End is meeting next week to determine their 2019 event dates. The exciting news is that we will be partnering with Main Street and combining the Green Expo with their Coloring in the Street event! There are logistics to work out, but everyone seems to think it could work out very well. Mark felt that we should definitely plan for it to be on Green Street rather than Main Street due to the streetscape work that will still be going on. Also, there was mention that there needs to be more food available for the event.

4. Green Talks

a. June Green Talk (Brad Motter, invasive plants) was cancelled due to weather, hope to reschedule – Cindy will give Brad a call.

b. July Talk: Composting Basics July 14 at FCPL Middletown branch – turn out was good – 9 people showed up.

c. August Talk: Cooking with Local Produce – August 16 – 5-6pm – Farmer's Market; Cindy will be out-of-town and needs someone to be there to introduce the speaker and pass around the sign-in sheet; Keith, Rick, Mark and Ann all said they could be available to help that evening. Cindy will have signage available for pick-up at the town office that day.

5. Riparian meadow restoration update – Cindy and Dr. Tangren spent about an hour weeding the site last Saturday; mostly to pull the mile-a-minute and hops that were invading. A future date to plant flower plugs will be chosen and advertised.

6. Middletown Library pollinator garden – Ann mentioned the butterfly garden at the Library. There are four 4x4 plots which she has been planting and watering. Cindy asked whether money might be able to be received from the Monarch Alliance for signage for the plots.

7. Pollinator resolution – Cindy was asked what kind of herbicide the town uses when spraying weeds along the roads and sidewalks. Is it glyphosphate? She will look into it. Also brought up the use of herbicides around the exercise areas at Wiles Branch Park. Ann commented that areas are still being mowed to short.

8. Tree planting – Cindy spoke to the members about the upcoming community service day being done by the area churches. It was recommended that the Green Team discuss a list of potential areas to do tree planting next April.

Ann spoke about a heat island effect article that she found and posted on the Green Team's Facebook page.

9. Green Team Action Plan – Cindy will send the updated version out to everyone again for folks to review ahead of the next meeting.

10. Heritage Festival Sat Sept 29 (10 to 5)—volunteer sign-up sheet is available. Thanks for those that have already signed up!

11. Mark asked whether we had received the report yet from the Catoctin Creek Watershed assessment that was being done by Dewberry in conjunction with the County. He also asked when we will be meeting with Drew about the measures to be taken for the MS4 stormwater management permit.

Mark also talked about a solar pollinator designation program that just passed. Will get us more information.