

Memorandum

To: Middletown Sustainability Committee

From: Cindy Unangst, Staff Planner

Date: August 12, 2019

RE: August Green Team meeting agenda

Meeting discussion items:

1. July meeting minutes approval
2. Green Expo
 - a. Date for next year – April 25th. Partner with Coloring the Street event again? Coloring the Street event is planned for April 25th and hopes to be on Main Street next year.
3. 2019 Green Lecture Series
 - a. August – Recycling with Annmarie Creamer – C. Burr Artz Library - Thursday, August 1 – 6:30-7:30pm
 - b. September – Importance of Bees – Lindsay Barranco (UMD) – C. Burr Artz Library – Thursday, Sept. 26 – 6:30pm
 - c. October – Little Catocin Highland Glades – Deborah Barber (Nature Conservancy) – C. Burr Artz Library – Thursday, Oct. 24th – 6:00pm
 - d. Waneta from the Middletown Library is interested in partnering with us on a program related to clean water in connection with the 2019 MD One Book book of the year entitled “What the Eyes Don’t See”. Drew will lead a tour of the East Wastewater Treatment Plant on Saturday, October 26th at 11:00am.
4. Sustainable Communities application and SMC re-application (Cindy)
5. Municipal Carbon Footprint inventory (Cindy)
6. MUCFC grant award! (Cindy)
7. Tree canopy assessment and goal discussion (Cindy)
8. Tree planting – Elm Street parking lot (Cindy)
9. No-Idle zones at schools (Ann)
10. Composting program for Middletown Elementary School (Cindy, Mark)
11. MEA solar panel project (Cindy)
12. Pollinator meadow at solar array (Mark)
13. Heritage Festival – Saturday, September 28th
14. September meeting date – third Tuesday – September 17th

July Sustainability Committee meeting July 16, 2019

Meeting minutes

Attendees: Cindy Unangst, Agnesanne Danehey, Jamie Moore, Ann Payne, Bill Heaton, Dana Heaton, Sean O'Keefe

1. June meeting minutes approved
2. Green Expo
 - a. Date for next year – April 25th. Local Forestry Board plans to attend. Partner with Coloring the Street event again? Coloring the Street event is planned for April 25th and hopes to be on Main Street next year.
3. 2019 Green Lecture Series
 - a. July – Frederick Food Security Network – C. Burr Artz Library lecture and garden tour – Saturday, July 13th – 10:15am, about a dozen people attended.
 - b. August – Recycling with Annmarie Creamer – C. Burr Artz Library - Thursday, August 1 – 6:30-7:30pm. August 11: Ann will be giving a talk about Monarchs
 - c. September is about bees and October is a speaker from The Nature Conservancy
 - d. Waneta from the Middletown Library is interested in partnering with us on a program related to clean water in connection with the 2019 MD One Book book of the year entitled “What the Eyes Don’t See”. Drew will lead a tour of the East Wastewater Treatment Plant on Saturday, October 26th at 11:00am.
 - e. December: information about the PG county organics composting facility
4. Sustainable Communities application and SMC re-application (Cindy): Cindy has finished the application and submitted it.
5. Municipal Carbon Footprint inventory (Cindy): UMD student is still working on this
6. Maryland Urban and Community Forest grant program (Cindy): Maximum of \$1000, Cindy submitted an application. Plan to use funds to purchase trees to plant along Middletown Parkway, plan to use volunteers to plant the trees.
7. Tree canopy assessment (Cindy) – working with a consultant on the 18th of this month
8. Tree planting – Elm Street parking lot (Cindy): Little leaf linden, inkberries, purple coneflowers, black-eyed susans, and switch grass
9. No-Idle zones at schools (Ann): Ann sent letter to school board and county officials about idling policy around schools. Terry Alban will try to put this on the school board agenda. Meyersville environmental club has had parents sign a pledge not to idle around the schools. Agnesanne recommended that the Green Team members attend school board meetings to promote this idea. Joyce to write letter to newspaper about this issue. Dana to speak with new principal at MES.
10. Composting program for Middletown Elementary School (Cindy, Ann, Dana, Sean, Mark): will need \$2000/school year to fund composting program. Also possible SHARE table? Lisa

Orr can be a good resource. Joe Richardson overcommitted for the fall, but may be able to assist in January. Possibly also get an environmental club started at MES. MES has a National Science Honor Society, they may want to get involved in composting program or idling issue.

11. Pollinator meadow at solar array (Mark)
12. Streetlight buy-back program (Cindy and Mark)
13. Heritage Festival – Saturday, September 28th. Maybe have poster/fliers/pledge/petition at Green Team table.
14. August meeting date – third Tuesday – August 20th
15. MEA solar panel project (Cindy)



MEMORANDUM

Date: 7/26/2019

To: Burgess Miller
From: Cindy Unangst, Middletown Staff Planner
RE: Tree canopy facts and aspirations

The Tree Canopy Report done for Frederick County in May 2017 showed that the Town of Middletown had a tree canopy of about 18%. As a comparison, Frederick County as a whole had 43% coverage; Fountaindale had the highest percentage of existing tree canopy with 71%; Brunswick was at 38%; Frederick City and Walkersville were in line with or even below Middletown in terms of tree canopy percentage.

The national average for cities is 25 percent cover. The U.S. Forest Service has determined that at 40 percent you see benefits. Those benefits can be classified as environmental, economic and social.

Environmental benefits are less water runoff, better air quality, increased life of asphalt and other hard surfaces, erosion control and carbon reduction. Economic benefits are higher property values, environmental savings, more money spent in an area that is regarded as pleasant, and more jobs. Social benefits are improved human health and a sense of place and beauty. A neighborhood with trees is also correlated with lower crime, because they improve walkability, putting more people on the street and lowering opportunistic crime.

I would like to propose to the Sustainability Committee, which will in turn propose to the Town Board, that the Town's tree canopy goal should be 25% by the year 2025. At that point, I would like the Town Board to fund a follow-up tree canopy analysis to determine where we are. I'm working on having our consultant with Advanced Land and Water to give us an estimate of how much that might cost. Ultimately, I feel that we should have a goal of 40% tree canopy by the year 2040. Measures of progress should happen every five years.

Aside from planting trees on town-owned land, I would like to reach out to homeowners to help us reach our tree canopy goals. Programs like the Marylanders Plant Trees coupon program, Tree-Mendous Maryland, Gift of Trees, and others can be communicated to residents in various ways.