

August Sustainability Committee meeting: August 20, 2019

Meeting minutes

Attendees: Cindy Unangst, Agnesanne Danehey, Jamie Moore, Ann Payne, Doug Martin, Pam McDonald, Rick Detrick

1. July 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. September 26, 6:30 pm at C. Burr Artz: Importance of Bees, how we can enhance their environments by Lindsay Barranco of UMD
 - b. October 24 at 6 pm at C. Burr Artz: Little Catoctin Highland Glade preserve, Deborah Barber, director of Land Management with The Nature Conservancy
 - c. 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.
 - d. November 21 at 6:30 pm, C. Burr Artz: How to prepare in Fall for a Spring Raised Bed master gardener presentation
 - e. December 12 at C. Burr Artz: PG county organics composting facility and the food scrap composting pilot program
 - f. Waneta would like Joyce to give talk about bottled vs tap water in spring 2020.
4. Sustainable Communities application and SMC re-application (every 3 years): Cindy has finished the application and submitted it. Out for external review. Awaiting Municipal Carbon Footprint inventory.
5. Municipal Carbon Footprint inventory (Cindy): Brandy with Sustainable Maryland Certified is now working on this. This is a priority item for us.
6. Maryland Urban and Community Forest grant program (Cindy): We got maximum funding for tree planting project of \$1000, will plant 30 trees (5 to 8 feet tall each; sycamore, red maple, sweet gum, and pin oaks) along Middletown Parkway. Middletown Valley Ministerium volunteers will help plant the trees in October.
7. Tree canopy assessment (Cindy) – We were at 18% a few years ago, benefits occur at 40%. Cindy proposes this committee tell the town board that we should set our town goals to reach 25% by 2025, 40% by 2040. Town should budget money to have tree canopy assessment done regularly. Send property owners who have good areas to plant trees a letter containing resources to encourage them to plant trees.
8. Tree planting – Elm Street parking lot (Cindy): Little leaf linden, inkberries, purple coneflowers, black-eyed susans, and switch grass have been installed.

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, she will call and check if this is on the agenda. Multifaith alliance will also support this. Joyce to write letter to newspaper about this issue. Dana to speak with new principal at MES. Pledge sheet for Heritage Festival.
10. Composting program for Middletown Elementary School (Cindy, Ann, Dana, Sean, Mark): will need \$2000/school year to fund composting program. Rotary Clubs may be willing to help fund this, grant application due Sept 15 (Joyce working on this). Mark would like our committee or the town, PTA, and local businesses should also donate toward this. Dr. Alban has also put some funds toward the composting program at other schools. 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 and outdoor classroom started at MES. MES has a National Science Honor Society, they may want to get involved in composting program or idling issue. Mark, Cindy, Joyce attended meeting at Sugarloaf Elementary about school composting programs. Jan Gardner pledging \$65,000 toward “compost coach” program.
11. Heritage Festival – Saturday, September 28th. Maybe have poster/fliers/pledge/petition at Green Team table. Need volunteers for booth.
12. EV station behind town hall, town tracks how much electricity has been used, Burgess Miller interested in adding more EV stations, there is a company that will install them free of charge. Rick raised the question of what to do about locals abusing this resource and since parking is already limited in downtown, how many parking spaces should we commit to EV charging?
13. MEA solar panel project (Cindy)—contract has been signed for solar panels for roof of the food bank.
14. September meeting date – third Tuesday – September 17, 5:00 to 6:30 pm