

Middletown Sustainability Committee
September 15, 2020
5:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting Minutes:

Attendance: Cindy Unangst, Ann Payne, Jamie Moore, Erin Carney, Agnesanne Danehey, Mark Carney, Pam McDonald, 301-473-1842, Rick Dietrick,

July meeting minutes were approved. The committee did not meet in August.

The sustainability team welcomed a new team member—Erin Carney. She shared that she is interested in butterfly/pollinator gardening, sustainability in the community, and is involved with the outdoor classroom at Middletown Elementary school—she received a grant to build a pollinator garden there which will be planted in the fall. Welcome Erin!

Tree Planting: Cindy marked 50 spaces for tree planting for the free trees from DNR. Trees will be planted around town—14 at Remsburg Park parking area and some in the storm waster water area at Remsburg, 7 at Wiles Branch Park, 10 at Foxfield, 3 at Boileau Ct/Washington St.

MUCFC Grant: End of October extension of grant money to plant trees from the \$1,000 grant award. Discussed how to organize planting to be safe during Covid. Friday October 16 is a vacation day for students and would be a good way to get volunteers. Discussed combining the planting with an Arbor Day celebration and proclamation by the Burgess. Planting area location was discussed: off or W. Main Street and North Pointe. There is about a 2-acre area where we will plant trees and reserve an area for pollinator garden, near the cul de sac.

Tree Trail at Wiles Branch Park: Tree ID Story Map is now online at Middletown website.

Memorial Tree Program: First memorial tree purchased for Lewis Corl at Cone Branch trail to be planted behind the Corl's house. The tree committee met with Kurt Peterson from Stadler's at Cone Branch Trail area. He will provide a plan for a memorial tree grove at Cone Branch Trail. Trees will have a 20% discount and two-year warranty from Stadlers. He will provide a list of native trees and prices for customers. We will need a deadline for memorial tree ordering so as to be able to do the plantings in late October.

Memorial Tree Plaque design—get options. Pam McDonald will work with designer that created Joyce Tuten's plaque.

Foxfield Forest Succession: Presentation by Cindy to the community. Cindy sought to educate the Foxfield community about the importance of allowing the natural habitat to remain in their community. Cindy felt she got buy-in from Sonya, the group's liaison—she is willing to help with wildflower planting in the area.

Compost bin update: One compost bin left. We can get more but will need to travel to Greenbelt to pick them up.

Sustainability Chapter for the 2020 Comprehensive Plan: Cindy will have a brainstorm session later in September 22, 23 or 24 for an hour to gather information and inspiration from the team.

Bee City USA—Mark Carney: Follow up with our application. Bee City is located in Portland, OR and it is difficult to get information from the organization with the current fire situation. We

will not have to file an annual report until 2022 since we started late in the year. Mark will start a pollinator working group within the Sustainability Committee.

Pollinator-friendly Solar Arrays Program in Maryland: Ann Payne spoke with DNR—Pollinator Talk for the Sierra Club via Zoom for first week in October with a focus on Pollinator-friendly solar arrays program in Maryland. There is only one certified array at Purdue in Salisbury. Granting agency that has money and expertise to help start the program. Rob Davis is the Guru of Pollinator-friendly solar arrays and would come out to our site and provide expertise. Poolesville has pollinator friendly solar array with local Dickerson company. Mark Carney—will find out who the owner and operator is of our solar array to get buy-in. Prince Georges County—Audubon groups helping homeowners make backyard habitats. Master naturalists, Master gardeners, Audubon groups

Team Reviewed goals for 2020:

- Will have planted 100 trees
- Created a memorial tree program and as of 9/15 sold one memorial tree for \$400
- Sold 19 compost bins
- Some goals on hold because of Covid-19
- MS4 plan for Wiles Branch Park
- Planning stages of how to proceed with pollinator friendly solar array
- Ann Payne advocated for adding Zoom educational meetings—she would like to bring back educational/advocacy component to benefit the community.

Commissioner Rick Dietrick let the group now that he plans to move to the Public Works Committee. This is his last meeting as commissioner on the Sustainability Committee. The team expressed their gratitude for his contributions.