

Memorandum

To: Middletown Sustainability Committee

From: Cindy Unangst, Staff Planner

Date: September 9, 2019

RE: September Green Team meeting agenda for Tuesday, September 17th

Meeting discussion items:

1. August meeting minutes approval
2. Green Expo
 - a. Date for next year – April 25th. We will partner with Coloring the Street event again. Cindy will send out a save-the-date email to past exhibitors.
3. 2019 Green Lecture Series
 - a. September – Importance of Bees – Lindsay Barranco (UMD) – C. Burr Artz Library – Thursday, Sept. 26 – 6:30pm
 - b. October – Little Catocin Highland Glades – Deborah Barber (Nature Conservancy) – C. Burr Artz Library – Thursday, Oct. 24th – 6:00pm
 - 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.
4. SMC re-application – final edits are due Sept. 10th (Cindy)
5. Municipal Carbon Footprint inventory (Cindy)
6. MUCFC grant award! – tree planting to take place on Friday, Nov. 8th (Cindy)
7. Tree canopy assessment and goal discussion (Cindy)
8. No-Idle zones at schools (Ann)
9. Composting program for Middletown Elementary School (Cindy, Mark)
10. MEA solar panel project (Cindy)
11. Streetlight buy-back program (Cindy and Mark)
12. Pollinator meadow at solar array (Mark)
13. Heritage Festival – Sustainability Committee table with Town Board - Saturday, September 28th
14. October meeting date – third Tuesday – October 15th

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. 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. 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. Multifith 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

2019 GREEN LECTURE SERIES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The 2019 Green Lecture Series is a year-long program of speakers and interactive events focusing on different aspects of sustainability. The schedule is subject to change, so visit our Facebook page for the latest information.

 @TheCityOfFrederickSustainabilityCommittee

JANUARY 19

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Winter Tree Identification

Learn to identify a few of the most common tree species using bark, buds, twigs, and overall shape. This will be a walk in Waterford Park with City of Frederick Sustainability Manager Jenny Willoughby.

Waterford Park

FEBRUARY 16

2:00 - 3:30 PM

Climate Change: Impacts on Food & Agriculture

Join Dr. Sara Via from the University of Maryland to learn about ways to reduce the carbon footprint of food, with positive effects on land and human health.

C. Burr Artz Public Library

MARCH 16

12:30 - 3:00 PM

Composting ... It's Hot!

Phil Westcott of Key City Compost, will lead a discussion about the importance of composting to avoid food in our waste stream as well as practical tips for composting at home.

Fox Haven Farm (Jefferson, MD)

APRIL 11

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Edible Landscaping: Have Your Food & Eat It Too

Join author and edible landscape designer Michael Judd in an exploration of combining form, function and production in your yard.

C. Burr Artz Public Library

MAY 11

10:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Backyard Gardening & Stormwater Management

Join us with Donielle Axline, Master Gardener, for a lecture and demo focusing on home storm water management and backyard gardening in our region.

University of Maryland Extension, Frederick County

JUNE 8

10:00 AM

Hike in Frederick City Watershed

Join the ICPRB and Jenny Willoughby for a 3.5 mile hike on moderate terrain. Please dress appropriately with proper footwear, bring your own water, snacks and bug spray.

City Watershed at the Hamburg Road, Blue Lot Parking Area.

JULY 13

10:15 AM

Frederick Food Security Network

Join Connie Ray of Hood College to learn about the mission and tour of one of the gardens. Dress appropriately with proper footwear, bring your own water and snacks.

C. Burr Artz Public Library

AUGUST 1

6:30 PM

How Recycling Really Works

Join staff from Frederick County Department of Solid Waste Management to learn how what happens in your home affects this global industry. Ask questions and learn how to "recycle right" to help ensure the success of the program.

C. Burr Artz Public Library

SEPTEMBER 26

6:50 PM

Importance of Bees, Honey Bees and Native Bees

Join Lindsay Barranco of the University of Maryland to learn what we can do to enhance their environments through floral plantings and optimizing sites for native bee nesting.

C. Burr Artz Public Library

OCTOBER 24

6:00 PM

Little Catoctin Highland Glades

Join Deborah Barber, Director of Land Management with The Nature Conservancy for a lecture on this 38 acre preserve in Frederick County, which is an example of Maryland's smallest geological region.

C. Burr Artz Public Library

NOVEMBER 21

6:30 PM

How to Prepare in Fall for a Spring Raised Bed

Join Master Gardener Don Ludke for step by step instructions on what to do in fall to get ready for your spring garden.

C. Burr Artz Public Library

DECEMBER 12

6:30 PM

PG County Organics Composting Facility and the Food Scrap Composting Pilot Program

With Steven Birchfield, Field Operations Supervisor.

C. Burr Artz Public Library

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Sustainability Committee



FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Middletown Sustainability Committee





MEMORANDUM

Date: 9/5/2019

To: Burgess and Commissioners

From: Cindy Unangst, Middletown Staff Planner and Co-Chair of Middletown Sustainability Committee

RE: Tree canopy goals

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.

The Sustainability Committee is recommending to the Town Board that the Town's tree canopy goal should be 25% by the year 2025. At that point, 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, the committee feels that we should have a goal of 40% tree canopy by the year 2040. Measures of progress should happen every five years.

The plan to increase our tree canopy to 25% by 2025 would be accomplished by: natural growth of trees already in town and specifically the trees that have been planted in newer subdivisions within the past 20 years (500+ homes built); afforestation plantings done by developers; tree plantings with grant funds done by the town; and reaching out to homeowners to encourage tree planting on private property.

I would like to reach out to homeowners to help us reach our tree canopy goals in the following ways: sending a letter that outlines various resources such as Marylanders Plant Trees coupon program, Maryland Forest Service's Gift of Trees program, i-Tree software tool, and the Tree Frederick tree guide; put information about tree planting and the town's tree canopy goals on the town's website; and planning an annual Arbor Day tree planting ceremony to provide a demonstration on how to plant a tree.

