

December Middletown Sustainability Team Meeting Minutes

Date and time: Tuesday, December 20, 2022, 05:00 - 6:15 PM Eastern Time

In Attendance: In-person and Virtual: Cindy Unangst, Pam McDonald, Bill Spare, Kristin King, Ann Payne, Sean O'Keefe, Agnesanne Danehey

Meeting Minutes:

1. November meeting minutes approved.
2. Green Lecture series with library (Ann) – Holiday Greenery decorating December 17th @ 1:00pm-Cindy said this was well attended—over 20 people. Kristin attended the Olive Oil tasting and it was also well attended! January meeting will be on “electrifying everything” by the multi-faith climate alliance. Karen Whitehair will present the program in March!
3. Outreach sub-committee report –Little seed library update: Ann has been discussing this with Lenora Gracken and she is designing a speaker series to accompany the seed library. Ann discussed including the master naturalist to help with the native seed component. The library is fine with that. Ann mentioned having Edamarie as a speaker, which would be a great addition. Cindy shared information about door hangers that have been created by the Arbor Day Foundation and are free for us to use and can be customized. We could add a back side to the hanger about native plants/pollinators. The Outreach committee will follow up with this.
4. Website updates (Gene) – terms and conditions disclaimer—Cindy shared draft of the town’s website user policies, terms, and conditions that will include the Green Team website. The town attorney is reviewing this.
5. Green Expo – date for next year – Saturday, April 22nd – Earth Day! Cindy has sent out Save-the-Date email to vendors. Cindy said she already has confirmation of many vendors wanting to participate in the event.
6. Bee City USA – need to start working on IPM for next year’s submittal. Mark reported he is working on a declaration that states that the town does not use chemicals on landscaping or in parks. The town will need to ensure that its contractors for grounds maintenance comply with this mandate. Cindy shared the resolution that the town already has had in place since 2017 and Mark will check to Bee City USA to see if this will suffice for their IPM requirement.
7. Mayor’s Monarch Pledge – Cindy submitted the annual report, and it has been approved. Cindy shared the annual report.
8. Pollinator demonstration gardens –Budget of \$2,000; spent \$1,200 in 2022. The plants in the Memorial Park pollinator garden have not been replaced yet. Pam will follow up with Edamarie to see if Backyard Bounty is still willing to replant the garden. If not, we will order plants in the new year.

9. Compost project – compost bins available for purchase at municipal center. There are 15 available for purchase. There were 595 lbs. of compost collected in November—which was a big number for the time of year.
10. Lunch Out Of Landfills – no update. Abby Lapadula is selling beeswax wrap to raise money for lunch out of landfills for expansion to the high school. Southern Frederick Rotary Meeting on February 2 (meets at the YMCA in Urbana) will have Ben Friton as speaker. It = would be great to have Green Team members at that meeting. Time TBD. Funding source for continuing the LOOL was discussed—there is hope that Rotary or one of the Rotarians will continue to fund the Middletown program.
11. Tree plantings –Agnesanne discussed the density of new trees planted at the Middletown Park and wondered if they were too dense. Cindy reported that the density is set by the state and mirrors what native forests have. It is expected that the total survival rate will be around 65%.
12. Tree City USA – Cindy submitted the Tree City Annual Report and the Growth Award application. Cindy reviewed her report and application with the team. The town had twice the number of needed points for the growth award! (20 total!)
13. Gift Tree Program – flyer boxes at Wiles Branch Park, Memorial Park and on Cone Branch Trail. There are two new gift tree applications that Cindy is processing—will be adding a magnolia and a fringe tree to the tree grove at Linden on that Cone Branch Trail.
14. Utility work in Glenbrook and impact to street trees—Erin, Mark and Kevin are attending a meeting at Glenbrook HOA tonight to discuss that impact on trees in that community. The new Internet provider, Shentel, will be present at the meeting along with the Burgess and Commissioners.
15. Recycling event – will look to continue program biannually with next event on March 11, 2023. Cindy will be inserting a flyer into the next town water bill about the recycling event.
16. No Idle Zone - discussion. Cindy showed how you can purchase “No Idling Zone” street signs online—Myersville has No Idling Zone/ Children Breathing signs that were part of a campaign by the students that has been successful. Ann suggested the Green Team write a letter to the FC BOE and encourage No idle zones at schools and moving to electric vehicles for bussing kids. Action item: Pam and Ann will draft a letter.
17. Green Schools: Cindy attended information session about this and will have more information to come. Wolfsville and Myersville are already Green Schools—we could contact them to learn more about how they got started and steps they took.
18. Buy Back streetlights program: No new information. Cindy and Ann discussed coordination with area churches and concerns about extraneous lighting.
19. Cindy is continuing to try to coordinate Frederick County Green Teams
20. January meeting date – third Tuesday – January 17th

GOALS FOR 2022:

PLANT 100 TREES IN 2022 – More than 300 were planted!				
GIFT TREE PROGRAM - GOAL OF \$1000 – \$600 realized so far				
QUANTIFY/SHOW PROGRESS ON 25% CANOPY BY 2025				
HOLD GREEN EXPO -				
SUPPORT MES & MMS LOOL PROGRAM - VOLUNTEER SUPPORT -				
PROMOTE & SELL 20 COMPOSTING BINS – 5 sold				
PROMOTE & SELL 25 RAIN BARRELS (GRANT REQUEST)?				
EVALUATE & RECOMMEND STREETLIGHT BUYBACK PROGRAM TO TOWN BOARD				
CREATE 2 AC POLLINATOR MEADOW NEAR SOLAR ARRAY				
EDUCATION ON STORMWATER PERMIT PROGRAMS				

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Habitat advisor volunteers