

Memorandum

To: Middletown Sustainability Committee

From: Cindy Unangst, Staff Planner

Date: August 7, 2023

RE: July Sustainability Committee meeting - Tuesday, August 15th in person and via Lifesize

Time: August 15, 2023, 05:00 PM Eastern Time

Meeting link

<https://call.lifesizecloud.com/12429552>

Passcode

21769

Phone

United States:+1 (312) 584-2401

Meeting discussion items:

1. July meeting minutes approval
2. Green Lecture series with library – Karen Cannon with Mobilize Frederick on August 12th speaking about climate change preparedness; September talk on recycling scheduled for the 23rd was cancelled due to the fact that Middletown’s Heritage Festival is the same day; October talk is scheduled for Saturday the 28th at 10:30am with Karen Whitehair talking about monarch butterflies; there will be no talks scheduled for November and December due to the move to the new library.
3. Little Seed Library –Natural Ways to Deal with Pests, Fungus & Disease on July 22nd (did anyone attend?); Seed Harvesting and Saving on August 5th (did anyone attend?); next up: Canning, Preserving & Fermenting on Saturday, August 26th at 10:30am.
4. Outreach sub-committee report – the committee met and Pam or Kristin will give their report
5. Pollinator demonstration gardens – Memorial Park garden – proposed list of plants to install this fall in space currently filled up with Rattlesnake Master seedlings, and small group weeding party removed the unwanted seedlings; Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle planting – being watered three times a week; need to figure out a care schedule; Cindy met with the HOA – although it was a positive meeting, there has been no follow-up from them;
6. Compost project – compost bins available for purchase at municipal center - we only have four left; we will coordinate with Fred. Co. Dept. of Energy & Environment for fall compost bin and rain barrel program;
7. Tree plantings – tree planting maintenance/inventory schedule (see below); letter of support sent for SilvoCulture grant request;
8. Tree trails – Jim Roessler is working on text for Cone Branch tree trail. New trees to add to Wiles Branch tree trail – white ash and black willow.
9. Tree City USA Growth Award potential projects– Cindy will start recruiting help to work on Growth Award projects.

10. Gift Tree Program – gift tree application came in for a redbud to be planted this fall; QR code decals have arrived and been placed on brochure holders; Ryan is cutting the plexiglass to place the other decals with Cindy and Mark coming up with locations for them to be placed.
11. Recycling event – fall event will be held on Saturday, October 21st with a time frame for the event of 9am - Noon;
12. Trex plastic bag collection – we can still take plastic bags, etc to MES during the summer M - TH
13. Battery recycling at the Municipal building – we received the boxes and the response has been overwhelming; first box was filled up within two weeks at 19 pounds and the second filled up within a week later at 11.9 pounds.
14. Weed control on Town streets and storm drains
15. Wildlife Habitat Advisors program – Karen is interested in being involved in this program.
16. Frederick County Sustainability Commission meeting tomorrow at 4pm – there will be a discussion about a municipal green team forum
17. REED Center class – Supporting the Bees – Saturday, September 2nd at 12pm – building bee hotels and learning how to support the health and well-being of bees and other insects.
18. September meeting date – third Tuesday – September 19th

GOALS FOR 2023:

PLANT 100 TREES IN 2023 – 135 planted in April ✓					
GIFT TREE PROGRAM - GOAL OF \$1000 – \$358 paid in April					
QUANTIFY/SHOW PROGRESS ON 25% CANOPY BY 2025					
HOLD GREEN EXPO - ✓					
SUPPORT MES & MMS LOOL PROGRAM - VOLUNTEER SUPPORT -					
PROMOTE & SELL 20 COMPOSTING BINS – 8 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
- Dark Sky policy

TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

- August 8 (Tuesday) 9:00-10:30am – maple tree pruning at Remsberg Park**
- August 11 (Friday) 10-11:30am – North Pointe pruning and staking**
- August 18 (Friday) 10-11:30am – Cone Branch pocket park pruning**

DRAFT July 2023 Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Time: 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Eastern Time

Attendance: In-person and via Lifesize: Cindy Unangst, Lexi Sassi, Mark Carney, Kristin King, Ann Payne, Pam McDonald, Gene Fleeman

Meeting minutes:

1. June meeting minutes approved.
2. Green Lecture series with library – REED Center food forest tour had an attendance of about 10-12 folks— Kristin and Cindy attended. Ben spoke at length and was very informative; Reducing Mosquito Populations with Paul Leishnam on July 15th at 1:00pm—Karen, Cindy and Karen attended from the Green Team. It was advertised in the Frederick News Post under events and with a small press release. Cindy recorded the event on her iPhone and needs to figure out how to share that to BaseCamp and see if it is of quality enough for Gene to edit and share. Cindy will also share her recording of the Green Talk about the Five Million Tree initiative.
3. Mosquito talk—Ann reported on the talk and the need for a public education component. Would the Green Team want to take on the initiative in Middletown? Mark commented that this would be a good project for the county to consider. There are GAT traps that are very effective that cost \$70 per household and would need to be monitored by the resident—targets tiger mosquitos that like very small bodies of water. The effectiveness would depend on the number of households that participate. The team also discussed adding more vegetation to the existing water retention ponds in Middletown to bring in more predators for the mosquitos. The mosquitos in the retention ponds are active in the morning and night and could be controlled with adding predator habitat. Could this be a project for the Boy or Girl Scouts—a citizen science project to help monitor effectiveness.

Upcoming Green Talks: August and September. October Green Talk on milkweed—Ann is looking for speaker for this—Karen Whitehair has volunteered.

4. Little Seed Library –Tomato Expert speaking on June 24th (did anyone attend?); next up: Natural Ways to Deal with Pests, Fungus & Disease on July 22nd at 2pm.—Pam plans to attend.
5. Outreach sub-committee report – the committee will meet later in the season to work on preparing for the Heritage Festival, discuss a marketing strategy to advertise the battery recycling program, and to discuss a strategy for mosquito education.
6. Pollinator demonstration gardens – Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle planting – being watered three times a week by the town; need to figure out a care schedule. Cindy met with the HOA – although it was a positive meeting, there has been no follow-up from them. Cindy will need to readdress the group to get a commitment from them.
7. Compost project – compost bins available for purchase at municipal center - we only have four left; we will coordinate with Fred. Co. Dept. of Energy & Environment for fall compost bin and rain barrel program. The county will purchase compost bins and rain barrels in bulk and then make them available to towns in the county.

8. Compost collection from Key City compost: May was 410 lbs and June was 1,000 lbs.—that is 300 lbs more than last June. The team discussed whether the bin is getting full before pick up. So far, there have not been calls to the town reporting that the bin is full.
9. Tree plantings – tree planting maintenance/inventory schedule (see below); Jane Dennison has been in contact with Middletown about Silviculture grant for nut trees. Chesapeake Trust looking for commitment to how the town will sustain the food forest once planted. They would like Middletown to name organizations that will be responsible to caring for the food forest. Cindy also reported that Anna Twig is planning the Healthy Forest, Healthy Waters tree initiative site in Middletown to located off of Layla Drive.
10. Tree trails – Bethany, forestry board member, joined us to help with tree id on Cone Branch trail; still stumped on exact species of chestnut and hickory. Dr. Roessler reported he will continue to work on the tree trail. New trees to add to Wiles Branch tree trail – white ash and black willow.
11. Tree City USA Growth Award potential projects– Cindy will start recruiting help to work on Growth Award projects. Cindy will be starting a tree inventory of existing trees on public lands in Middletown.
12. Gift Tree Program – gift tree application came in for a redbud to be planted this fall; QR code decals have arrived and been placed on brochure holders; Ryan is cutting the plexiglass to place over the decals. Cindy and Mark will place additional decals at other locations around town.
13. Recycling event – fall event will be held on Saturday, October 21st with a time frame for the event of 9am - 12 p.m. Cindy reported on some new opportunities/projects for the Green Team to take on: The Crayon Initiative—melt down old crayons and create new ones for hospitals—have a collection box and start at the Green Expo in April 2024. FCPL Green book recommendations—Urbana made a cool flyer with 12 book recommendations—we could do one with our library and have it on the web; and Bikes for the World—collection of old working bikes or ones that need some repairs and the bikes are fixed up and sent to around the world. They have staff/volunteers that help with the collection event.
14. Possible collaboration with Parks and Recreation to have a Middletown bike trail (Mark has created one of about 10 miles around Middletown that he would be happy to share) that the Green Team may co-sponsor and have at our next Green Expo.
15. Trex plastic bag collection – we can still take plastic bags, etc to MES during the summer M - TH, 9-3.
16. Battery recycling at the Municipal building – we received the box and Cindy will work on how to promote the use of it along with the Outreach Committee. Cindy is planning on having one box by the front door near the leaf bags. Every battery must be bagged and sealed. They will not take any leaking batteries—must contact them for proper handling.
17. Saturday, September 2 at 12 p.m. at the REED Center—building bee hotels and learning how to support the health and well being of bees and other insects. Pam would like to attend and learn about this so we could do some of these for our current pollinator gardens.
18. Wildlife Habitat Advisors programs—email from Deb Portney, a Maryland Master Naturalist. Ann Payne has contacted her and let her know that she will help out and that Karen Whitehair was also interested. Deb Portney’s email to the Green team outlined her interest in starting a volunteer program called Wildlife Habitat Advisors. The program is modeled after a similar program administered through Prince Georges County Audubon Society and centers on helping private home and business owners transform their property to a wildlife habitat. She would like to include our Green Team in her slide presentation with a slide about what we are doing to create habitat for native species. She has also developed a model to do a garden visit for

home or business owners who request one. The model borrows heavily from Prince Georges County Audubon program where over 275 visits have been performed and 55 volunteer advisors are involved.

19. August meeting date – third Tuesday – August 15th

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FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

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TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

June 23 (Friday) 10-11:30am– maple tree pruning at Remsberg Park
June 30 (Friday) 9-10:30am – Cone Branch pocket park pruning
July 7 (Friday) 9-10:30am – North Pointe pruning and staking

Outreach Subcommittee Minutes 8/11/2023

members present: PM, AP, GF, KW, AA, KK

1. Discussion re mass transit
 - a. Can we advocate?
 - b. Karen's daughter might be willing to speak on behalf of young residents that would benefit.
 - c. Talk with Jerry Donald, Fred County Council. Local and state funding available?
2. Rails-to-trails. Discussed important opportunity to link bike path with wildlife corridors.
 - a. Invite a representative from rails-to-trails to come talk at one of our Sustainability meetings.
 - b. Share Wildlife Corridor report by Karen Russell of the Frederick Climate Change working group.
3. Mosquito initiative follow up. Need to educate the community.
 - a. Can we secure funds for bait traps? We wonder if Mark Carney brought up this issue with the county.
 - b. Ask whether the girls scouts or boys scouts would be interested in going door to door to help residents identify breeding spots for mosquitos in yards (places where even tiny amounts of water collect) and share information on sustainable measures for mosquito eradication.
 - c. Write up a description of various measures homeowners can take to control mosquito reproduction. Include the info page in the water bill. Create a handout with the same text for the booth at the Heritage Festival. (Karen Whitehair volunteered to do the write up)
4. Heritage Festival
 - a. If we are able to have 2 tables, we need an additional tablecloth for the booth (Ann volunteered to order one.)
 - b. Relocate the booth to be farther away from the music in order to facilitate conversation with people who stop by the booth (live music is too loud; drowns the conversation). Perhaps the booth could be between the Town Hall and Zion Lutheran Church?

- c. Winnow the information/pamphlets that we display in order not to overwhelm those who stop by the booth. Using the overarching heading “Green Begins at Home” focus on:

Inside the Home:

- Laundry alternatives (see f and g below)
- battery recycling boxes

Outside the home:

- Pollinator garden plans for beginners—copies of garden plans from the Maryland Extension for mid-Maryland yards with various conditions from <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/pollinator-gardens>. Also have sample yard sign from Doug Tallamy’s Homegrown National Park program and brochure.
- Mosquito Control (Plan to have: Karen’s info sheet, mosquito donuts, and a display of a GAT trap)

- d. To make the identity of the booth more visible, get banners (either a horizontal one along the top of the booth, or vertical ones for the sides). Pam will research alternatives and prices.
- e. Kids interactive feature: Seed Shake—stones and milkweed seeds in a bag that is shaken to strip the fluff/coma from the seeds (Pam volunteered to make this)
- f. Need a give-away—sustainable laundry sheets in unbleached wax paper, including brief instructions for how to use them and how they help the environment.
- g. Display soap nuts and info sheet as another sustainable option (replacing laundry soap in big plastic containers)
- h. Gene will create QR codes for display at the booth so that interested parties can access more information.
5. Website—suggestion to organize some of the information under the headings “Sustainable Home” and “Sustainable Yard” (Gene will work on this)

CONE BRANCH NATURE TRAIL

Cone Branch

About 20 paces beyond the northern boundary of Middletown Community Park, amongst the giant reeds and beneath the alder trees, water seeps from the ground forming a small pool and the headwaters of Cone Branch. This rivulet flows in a southerly direction through the wooded area of the Park and into Kingsbury Pond. As it flows out of the pond, with a modestly increased volume, the stream heads southwesterly for about 0.4 miles, crosses beneath E. Main Street and then continues about another 3 miles, meandering through farmland and tree groves, until it joins Catoctin Creek along Bennies Hill Road.

Cone Branch Trail

The Trail ahead of you goes along Cone Branch through a lustrous riparian woodland, habitat to a pleasant variety of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, birds and other animals. The goal of creating this nature trail is to increase awareness of the surrounding nature and for the enjoyment of the trail users.

The Trail parallels the stream and thus the area is considered “riparian” and “bottomlands”. Also, there are low lying areas that tend to hold water creating a swampy environment. The entire area ahead of you to the south, east and west to Pine Avenue was all farmland until about 1955 when the land that now comprises Linden Blvd. and Locust St. was sold for development. The School grounds and adjacent trail area were farmland until the 1990s and the Primary school opened in 2006. Therefore, the trail area is considered a maturing second growth forest, i.e. a forest that is growing on land that has been cleared by humans, e.g. timber harvest, construction or for agricultural use. The path was paved in 2013.

The Nature Trail

As you walk along the path you will see signs identifying various trees. Use a smart phone, if available, to access the information about that tree on the Town's website. Or, when you get home, go to the Town's website and read the information. There are over 60 native trees in Maryland and over 100 naturalized trees; trees that have spread to Maryland and developed a permanent population. Trees in general are categorized as being lowland or upland. Lowland trees grow well in the moist soil of riparian areas, bottomlands and floodplains. Uplands are any area arising above the lowlands. Here the soil may vary from being moderately moist or dry. Because the Trail runs along the stream, most of the trees identified will be lowland trees, but there are also good examples of upland trees.

After the tree section of the website is completed, there will be additional information on the flora and fauna of the trail area.

A list of birds observed from the trail, with some pictures.

Pictures and identification of wildflowers along the trail.

Pictures of animals seen along the trail.

Enjoy the trail!

Pin Oak

Native. Habitat- Lowlands and poorly drained uplands. Range- mid-Atlantic and Midwestern U.S.

This is a beautiful example of a pin oak. Straight trunk, upper limbs reaching toward the sky, horizontal middle limbs and drooping lower limbs, some often dead in older trees. Its acorns are among the smallest of all oaks. Pin oaks tend to hold their brown fall leaves all winter, losing them with new budding in the spring. This process is called marcescence, which also occurs with some other oaks, American beeches, hornbeams and witch-hazels.

Pin oaks are also known as swamp oaks because of their affinity for moist ground, however they cannot live within swamps or in an area that floods during its growing season. Otherwise they are fast growing and hardy and therefore used in landscaping and along streets. Their wood is used for construction and as firewood.

Tuliptree

Native. Habitat- uplands. Range- East coast except Maine and southern Florida, and Midwest.

The tuliptree has the distinction of being both the tallest tree at 160 feet, and the most abundant tree, in the Maryland forests. It may live up to 300 years.

It derives its name from its flower that looks like a tulip with 3 yellow/orange petals and 3 pale green petals. It is also commonly known as a tulip poplar or a yellow poplar and its wood is called poplar, however it is not a poplar but rather is in the Magnolia family.

As a hardwood tree, its wood is soft, more like a pine than an oak. The wood is used for cabinetry, furniture, toys and plywood. Native Americans made canoes from the trees, probably because of its very straight trunk and the relative softness of its wood.

White Mulberry

Naturalized. Introduced from East Asia. Habitat- Lowlands, fencerows and second-growth forests (disturbed areas). Range- Throughout U.S. and southern Canada.

If you walk the path in late spring or early summer, you cannot help but notice that parts of the path are littered with the black berries from the overhanging white mulberry tree branches. In the wild the berries initially are in a cluster of white, red and purple berries before maturing and dropping to the ground. The berries are relished by birds, who then, widely distribute the seeds.

The trees have been cultivated in China for over 4,000 years for silk production, as the leaves are the only source of nutrition and water for the silkworm. This practice subsequently spread to be used by the early Greeks and Romans, and ultimately the rest of the world.

The berries are eaten and can be used to make wine. The leaves are used for tea in Korea.

American Elm

Native. Habitat- Lowlands and moist locations in upland areas. Range- Entire U.S. from Plains States to East Coast, and southern Canada.

We are fortunate to have this tree on the trail. In the past it was a common tree in the North American forest. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, American elms became widely used as a large shade tree along streets in many towns and cities. Then in 1928 the Dutch Elm disease, so-called because Dutch researchers determined it to be a fungal disease spread by Elm bark beetles, was imported from Europe on a shipment of logs. The disease spread, especially in cities, probably due to the close proximities of the trees and increased tree stress due to pollution and hard, compact soil. It ultimately spread throughout North America, killing approximately 70% of the estimated 77 million tree population.

Despite this, some Elm trees survived, either from escaping the disease in the wild, having natural resistance or from aggressive treatment of the disease or eradication of the beetles that spread it. These treatments saved many of the large American Elms that still line the walkways of the National Mall in Washington D.C. In addition, programs were developed that have cultivated resistant trees.

In the past elm wood was used for barrel staves, wagon wheel hubs and wooden car frames. Over 200 species of butterfly and moth caterpillars may eat the leaves of several elm species for food.

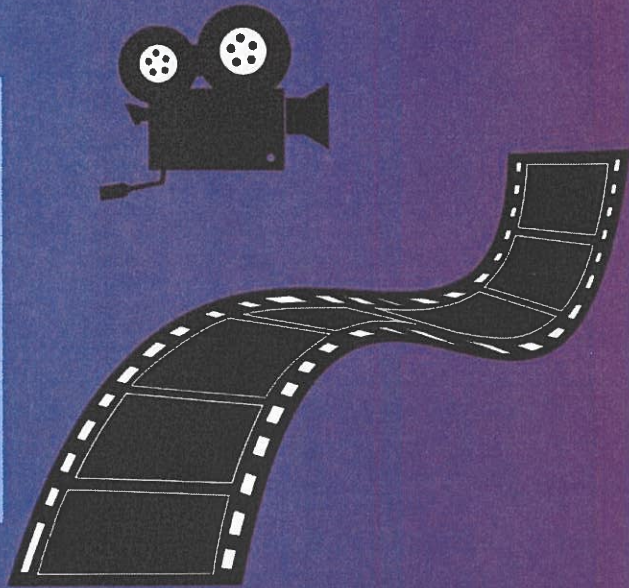
RECYCLE MY BATTERY



**BRING BATTERIES FOR SAFE DISPOSAL AT
STARLIGHT FILM FESTIVAL
AUGUST 10, 7:00 PM -10: 00 PM
9023, HARRIS STREET,
URBANA**

OR ANY DAY:

PUT BATTERIES (ALKALINE, RECHARGEABLE LITHIUM, LEAD ACID, CELL PHONES, AND LAPTOPS) IN A ZIPLOCK BAG WITH A MAXIMUM SIZE OF 3 TO FOUR INCHES AND DROP THEM OFF AT:



Urbana:

- 9868 Notting Hill Dr
- 9404 Singleton Place
- 9419 Dunraven st
- 9139 Landon House Ln
- 3727 Singleton Terr
- 3915 Shawfield Ln
- 9170 Kenway Lane
- 3903 Sweet Briar Ln
- 4007 Broadstone St
- 3529 Tabard Lane
- 9747 Wyndham Dr
- 4125 Brushfield Drive
- 8616 LongLeaf Ln
- 8712 Shady Pines Drive
- 3820 Shetland Ct
- 3007 Wasatch View Drive
- 9168 Kenway Lane
- 9073 Clendenin Way
- 3670 Carriage Hill Dr
- 3516 Connor Pl

Landsdale:

- 4849 Railway Cir
- 4715 Plum Road
- 10914 Veranda Ln
- 4605 Tinder Box Cir

Oakdale Village:

- 10065 Hutzell St
- 5370 Haller Place

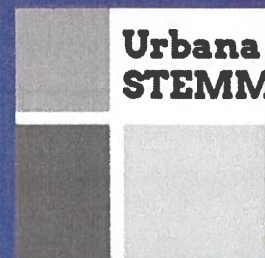
Westview South:

- 5208 Continental Dr

Schools:

(STUDENTS CAN BRING)

- Urbana ES
- Green Valley ES
- Oakdale MS
- Centerville ES
- Windsor Knolls MS
- Friends Meeting School



VISIT: [HTTPS://RECYCLEMYBATTERY.ORG/MARYLAND](https://recyclemybattery.org/maryland)
CONTACT: AMIT KUMAR EMAIL:UMATHCL@GMAIL.COM

By: Aahil Zubair (UMS), Zara Zubair (UES)



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FREDERICK COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Winchester Hall • 12 East Church Street • Frederick, Maryland 21701
301-600-1413 • FAX: 301-600-2054 • TTY: Use Maryland Relay

www.sustainablefrederickcounty.org

August 16th, 2023

View meetings live or participate by making public comment via our Public Input portal: <https://publicinput.com/P1307>. You may also listen or make a comment by phone; dial toll-free 855-925-2801 and enter code 9744

Meeting Agenda

*We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking
we used when we created them*

Albert Einstein

- 3:00 **Virtual Meeting Overview** – Chair
- 3:03 **Reflection and Pledge of Allegiance** – All
- 3:05 **Approval of July Minutes** – Secretary
- 3:08 **DEE Update** -- Shannon Moore/Lindsey Humphrey
- 3:15 **2023 Sustainability Awards Selections** -- Jenn/Faith
- 3:45 **Municipal Green/Sustainability Officials Forum: Survey Questions Review** -- Faith/Nathan
- 4:00 **Legislative Package Recommendations** -- Faith
- 4:15 **Expert Speaker Series: Topics & Possible Speakers** -- Faith
- 4:30 **CDI Updates**
- Workgroup -- Faith
- 4:35 **Committee Updates**
- Sustainability & Recognition Committee -- Jenn/Faith
 - Green Resources Energy Action Team (GREAT) – Bill
 - South Frederick Corridor--Faith
 - Community Outreach & DEI--pending
- 4:45 **Relevant Commissioner Interests** -- All
- 4:55 **Public Comment**
At this time public comment will be accepted by the Sustainability Commission. Please call toll-free 855-925-2801, enter code 9744, hit * for options, and 2 to leave a voicemail message to be played back during the meeting or 3 to enter into a queue for live public comment (2 minutes per person). Time limit may be adjusted due to number of people in the queue. You must state your name and address at the beginning of your call.
- 5:00 **Adjournment**