

## Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was hosted on Zoom and is archived on Basecamp

Date: March 16, 2021

Time: 5:00 - 6:20 p.m.

Participants: Cindy Unangst, Kevin Stottlemeyer, Agnesanne Danehey, Bill Spare, Gene Fleeman, Jessica Elder, Erin Carney, Pam McDonald, Mark Carney, Ann Payne

### Agenda:

1. Introduced newest town commissioner Kevin Stottlemeyer—will be commissioner on the Sustainability Committee. Avid gardener has lived in the area for over 20 years and coached locally for 25 years. Interested in sustainable practices. Mark Carney took Kevin on a quick tour of Basecamp to familiarize himself with layout and projects.
2. February meeting minutes approval. Gene provided needed edit.
3. BASECAMP projects:
  - Pollinator library video—Jessica has posted a rough cut of the video but it was almost 29 minutes long. Jessica is working with Pam and Ann to cut video to about 15 minutes. Agnesanne suggested photos of each person to add to video. Ann will check on date that we need video completed for FCPL. Jessica will let us know if more images are needed. Erin sent some music done locally by a neighbor musician.
  - Bee City USA (Mark)—Tues, March 23 is a virtual Bee City gathering that Mark and Cindy will attend. There will also be an integrated pest management training that will be in May. Mark will post info on BASECAMP.
  - Sustainable Maryland will be offering more webinars in the coming year—IPM, renewal energy, EV stations. Cindy will find out how many people can attend from each municipality.
  - Pollinator demonstration locations/schedule—Area between flags at memorial park and doctor's offices. Schedule for clearing the area and planting this spring. Will need to begin soon. Budget: Ann reported the Monarch Alliance gives grants of \$1,000 for a substantial pollinator garden. Erin reported she got a \$500 grant for her school pollinator garden. Ongoing costs will be minimal. Supplemental staffing of the project could be done with volunteers: Ann mentioned there are many experienced native gardeners that would be interested in helping.
  - Community Engagement—nothing new to report this month.
  - GreenMiddletown Website—Gene has verified the YouTube channel and will start posting videos. Gene is interested in linking with other sites/towns.
4. Green Expo – virtual event to take place in April—Cindy reported she has 4 videos for the April Green Expo. Marketing of Expo—easiest thing to do is to link the videos to YouTube channel. Facebook post would have some copy about the vendor and then the link to the video. Should have 15 videos for April Green Expo. Sustainable Maryland would like to share these as well. Members are encouraged to like and share the videos.

5. Cindy was contacted by Nancy Winn—has granddaughter who is a Girl Scout who is earning her Gold badge wants to get involved with the Monarch Pledge. Also an Eagle Scout is interested in creating a possible pocket park in town for his Eagle Scout project. TBD.
6. Comprehensive Plan Sustainability chapter. Will be looking at this in April.
7. Tree plantings and Tree City USA. Tree-Mendous—did not get grant but will be getting trees? Cindy will be getting more information about this. Maryland Arbor Day is April 7 and National Arbor Day is April 30.
8. Mayors Monarch Pledge – 14 action items to work on! Some of these items are completed and Cindy will set up a way to track progress on activities.
9. Recycling bin discussion. Mark explained history with town bin and why it is being shut down. Being used as a dump. Middletown Chat, Nextdoor Middletown, Middletown community page—places to correct misinformation. How to get a larger bin, what happens to contaminated recycling—gets dumped, how to recycle. Every county resident has a bin. Agnesanne will spearhead posts to correct misinformation and help residents recycle correctly.
10. Common Energy—solar power energy company that Bill Spare introduced to group. You get about 10% off Potomac Edison/kilowatt hour. May get billed residual from PE when CE cannot meet demand. CE has their own solar arrays in 40 communities.
11. Compost bins – Greenbelt has extra that we can purchase, but we would need to pick them up.
12. April meeting date – third Tuesday – April 20<sup>th</sup>