

## August Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> –5-6:20pm - Memorial Park large pavilion near bathrooms or via Zoom**

**Present: Kevin Stottlemeyer, Cindy Unangst, Bill Spare, Pam McDonald, Ann Payne, Sean O’Keefe.**

**On Zoom: Mark Carney, Joe Richardson (lunch out of landfills), Erin Carney, Sharon Steger (Middletown High School)**

Meeting discussion items:

1. July meeting minutes were not available and will be emailed to the committee for approval.
2. Mayors Monarch Pledge and Bee City—we need a public relations strategy to educate the residents of Middletown about our gardens and how to implement resident pollinator gardens as part of our commitment to these programs.
3. BASECAMP projects:
  - Pollinator demonstration gardens – spring-blooming plants for Memorial Park: Pam and Ann presented proposed plants for the Memorial garden. Pam will look at North Creek to see if we can get the plugs through them and use extra plants elsewhere—such as Foxfield. Ann mentioned need for a border around garden to keep weeds (Bermuda grass) out. Cindy will ask the Burgess if the town has any excess material that could be used. Proper installation is necessary to keep the invasive grass out of our garden.
  - Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle fall planting: Cindy is going to get soil sample. These gardens do not have to be monarch way station gardens—we can plant natives.
  - Compost project – discussion of possible locations for community compost bin. Erin feels that starting the program at the Town Hall would be best with one bin once a week to start. Will be close to apartments, Middletown Glen, and North Pointe. Kevin will present to the Commissioners at next town meeting.
  - Lunch Out Of Landfills: Joe Richardson joined us via zoom. Wondering about starting program during pandemic and what the rules will be at Middletown schools for volunteers. Would like to wait til October to allow school year to start and settle. Start at high school—is there a green team in the high school that could start the program and then mentor the middle school and elementary school kids? Important that the community is involved and it is not a burden to the schools. Middletown elementary was ready to go in March 2020 until Covid interfered. Travis Tracy—FC says that they will end program after one year if it doesn’t save money. Joe is pursuing funding through the state. Do we want to do the data collection? Will need volunteers to help the students with this. Sharon Steger said that she does not have an environmental ed class, does have an honor’s society; community service hours. Cindy will talk to principal at the elementary school for a waste sort day. Hannah LaPadula is a senior and is very science and environment oriented—Erin will contact and see level of interest in volunteering. Will revisit in September.
  - Middletown Food Bank: open 1-3 on Wednesdays and Saturday morning. Food bank director, Ann Pond, will open the food bank to receive food on Fridays for Saturday distribution. Milk and produce is needed. Joe says there is a lot of waste with chocolate milk, apples, craisins. Volunteers could take the milks home and refrigerate until food bank is open and can take them—Wednesday and Friday.
4. Tree planting: Cindy is looking into Boonsboro tree project to see how it was funded. Ann mentioned meeting with Ben Frisson at his regenerative farm in Middletown (The Reed Center). He is interested in helping us grow out trees, such as DNR trees. Ann also has a call to Joann Hunter at Fox Haven Center may also be interested. Will need tree guards—Cindy says she may have some.
5. Public Education: We need to be sure that we are educating the public on our programs. Getting Gift Tree program out to local church bulletins, other social media. Sharon Steger can put Gift Tree information in the Round table news for Middletown schools.
6. Ann Payne reported that Paul Tukey (<http://www.organicitsworthit.org/experts/grow/paul-tukey>) will present virtually on sustainable lawns on October 17 at 7 p.m. First 1,000 people can get on live chat. She would like the Green Team to be able to participate in the Live Chat and will get us information to sign up as soon as it is available.

7. Compost bins – Greenbelt has extra that we can purchase, but we would need to pick them up.
8. September meeting date – third Tuesday – September 21<sup>st</sup>