

## Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

**Time: December 14, 2021 4:30- 5:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Present: Cindy Unangst, Kris Colby, Kevin Stottlemyer, Gene Fleeman, Pam McDonald, Mark Carney, Ann Payne, Kristin King, Doug Martin, Adam Stanzione**

Meeting discussion items:

1. New member introductions: Adam grew up in this area and moved back to Middletown last year. Also serves on Middletown Ethics Committee, lives in Middletown Glen and has planted native landscaping in yard.
2. November meeting minutes approved.
3. Mayors Monarch Pledge – Cindy submitted the annual report. We completed 8 objectives and therefore received a commendation. Cindy picked 10 objectives for next year. The Green Team hopes the Girl Scout Gold Award project will help the team reach these objectives.
4. PLANT (People Loving and Nurturing Trees) —we received the green level, the highest level award! (This is a program through DNR—Maryland PLANT Community Award.)
5. Cindy would like to find a place within the town hall to hang the accumulating plaques and awards from the Green Team. Kevin will assist in getting permission to hang plaques.
6. Cindy has been submitting annual reports including Tree City USA—we did complete 10 items to receive a growth award.
7. BASECAMP projects:
  - a. Pollinator demonstration gardens – Cindy shared plant tags that are being used at the Urbana native pollinator garden and got feedback from committee. Will look into where they purchase them.
    - Memorial pollinator garden care schedule—Pam will write up and share.
    - Cone Branch Pocket Park pollinator garden suggestion by Burgess Miller. Possibly plant in the spring? Wet and more shade loving area—plants TBD.
    - Compost project—Cindy presented Janet Fox’s design for the Middletown Compost project and the team discussed starting the 90 day pilot program in early March. Cindy will be sure that a flyer is included in the April town newsletter.
    - Lunch Out Of Landfills—Started last week! Cindy reported that the kids really got into it and the adult volunteers did not have to assist them for very long. The Frederick News Post featured an article about the Middletown school program on 12/14/21.
6. Tree plantings – Potomac Edison program. Gene has created a page for the Potomac Edison Tree program. The website has an option that allows blast communication for a subject such as the “Spring Tree Giveaway.” Cindy is applying for a \$1,000 grant to help with the cost of the trees. PE pays \$8/tree and the town covers the rest. I-tree tool to help residents pick a tree. Discussed distributing the trees and tree planting guidance at the Green Expo.
7. Tree planting maintenance schedule (see below); Cindy thanked Bill Spare, Sean OKeefe, and Karen Whitehair for working on the trees and inventorying them —removing mesh tubes on trees in Wiles Branch Park. Friday, 12/17 at 10 a.m. there will be another work session on the trees.

8. Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant—Cindy applied for \$2,000 for trees to plant in the large EarthPlanter containers on Main St. Grant will be awarded in March.
9. Gift Tree Program – sites to install flyer boxes (3 were ordered). Boxes have been installed on existing posts at Memorial Park, Cone Branch trail at Linden Blvd., and Wiles Branch park parking area. The team will monitor boxes for refilling Gift Tree Applications.
10. Ann discussed strategic marketing committee for Green Team: Gene, Ann, Agnesanne, Kristin, Pam, Erin, and Karen expressed willingness to be on committee. Plan meetings for alternate Tuesday.
11. Green Expo 2022 – potential date of Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> (Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day). To be held at Memorial park again so can showcase Pollinator Garden and Compost drop off site. Will be doing a lot of publicity for this. Middletown Neighbors magazine. Facebook postings. Pollinator garden, live music?, Monarch Pledge declaration, Girl Scout Gold award table on Monarchs, plant a tree/Earth Day, free tree distribution.
12. Ben Friton to grow out trees for Middletown. DNR sells trees very cheaply—\$1/each. Cindy will check on budget. Ben was not present at the meeting tonight-will need to follow up to be sure he will grow them.
13. Next meeting: 3rd Tuesday: January 18th, 2022 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

**GOALS FOR 2021:**

PLANT <b>100</b> TREES IN 2021 – 25 planted 4/30 (75 shrubs planted in 2021)				
CREATE A TREE GIFT PROGRAM - GOAL OF <b>\$1000</b> –				
QUANTIFY/SHOW PROGRESS <b>[MEASURABLE GOAL NEEDED]</b> ON 25% CANOPY BY 2025				
HOLD VIRTUAL GREEN EXPO -				
SUPPORT MES LOOL PROGRAM - FINANCIAL/VOLUNTEER SUPPORT -				
PROMOTE & SELL 20 COMPOSTING BINS –				
PROMOTE & SELL 25 RAIN BARRELS (GRANT REQUEST)				
EVALUATE & RECOMMEND STREETLIGHT BUYBACK PROGRAM TO TOWN BOARD				
CREATE <b>2 AC</b> POLLINATOR MEADOW NEAR SOLAR ARRAY				
EDUCATION ON STORMWATER PERMIT PROGRAMS				

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Green lectures series
- Habitat advisor volunteers

## **FUTURE PLANTING AREAS:**

- North Pointe thicket (see Ann P.) – willow tree and button bushes

## **TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE**

**December 7 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – Wiles Branch FRO area**

**December 17 (Friday) 10-11:30am – Wiles Branch FRO area**

**December 21 (Tuesday) time TBD – Wiles Branch FRO area**

**March 8 (Tuesday) 12:30-2pm – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane**

**March 15 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane**

**March 18 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane**

**April 5 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – North Pointe plantings**

**April 12 (Tuesday) 12:30-2pm – North Pointe plantings**

**May 10 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am - FRO area off Layla Drive**

**May 20 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area off Layla Drive**

**June 3 (Friday) 10-11:30am – Wiles Branch dog park**

**June 7 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – Cone Branch pocket park**

**June 17 (Friday) 10-11:30am – Cone Branch pocket park**