

Memorandum

To: Middletown Sustainability Committee

From: Kevin Stottlemyer, Chairperson, & JJ Hartner, Staff Planner

Date: December 13, 2024

RE: December Sustainability Committee meeting - Tuesday, December 17th 4:00pm in person and via Lifesize

Meeting link

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

Passcode

21769

Phone

United States:+1 (312) 584-2401

Meeting discussion items:

1. Silvoculture update
2. 2025 Goals & Priorities
3. Next meeting date-third Tuesday- January 21st.

Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Time: 4:00 - 5:00 pm in person and via Lifesize

In attendance: Bill Steigelmann, Kevin Stottlemyer, Mark Carney, Joshua Lin (from Middletown High School), JJ Hartner, Ann Payne, Pam McDonald, Sean O'Keefe, Lexi Sassi

Meeting minutes:

1. October meeting minutes approved.
2. Joshua Lin joined the meeting. He is a sophomore from Middletown High School who has volunteered for the Sustainability committee in the past and is interested in deepening his involvement on the committee. He discussed his experience in using social media and would like to help increase the visibility of the Green Team by increasing the reach of social media and perhaps establishing Instagram and TikTok accounts. The committee welcomed his participation and enthusiasm.
3. Review upcoming goals for 2025. Kevin reported that a subcommittee is looking into what the team needs to do to keep designations of Bee, City, and Bird cities and Sustainable Maryland. The team discussed the need for more volunteers on the committee to handle upcoming projects.
4. Green Lecture series with library – The team needs to start to plan for topics for 2025. Ann discussed reducing the number of talks to 4/year and getting topics that will attract more participants and recruit experts in the field of interest. The team agreed with this approach.
5. Tree plantings – JJ asked about team members' experience inventorying trees. He needs help with counting and determining the survivability rate of the Forest Conservation plantings at Middletown Park. Bill Spare, Karen Whitehair are the team members that have done it with Cindy in the past and JJ will contact them.
6. SilvoCulture CEO walked the Harris property with JJ, Kevin, and Paul to discuss the Silvoculture grant opportunity. Middletown is annexing the Harris property into the town of Middletown. The town plans to make a walking trail, have a food forest, and use the buildings for maintenance/community use. Silvoculture will maintain the trees for 2 years. Kevin will present the plan to the town board this month. Silvoculture will plant a block of property with the fruit and nut trees and an additional trail of fruit/nut trees that will follow the Catoctin Creek. Eventually the town will put in a trail about 30' from the creek. Mrs. Harris will retain ownership of land including the creek. JJ discussed having an asphalt trail to follow the creek and have a tree trail that will identify the trees and provide education to the public. Mark suggested that a comprehensive plan be developed now on how to provide the maintenance after SilvoCulture is done. Grant is due 12/15.

7. Green Schools: Middletown High School is on track to apply and become a Green School in 2025. Carey Murphy and Karen Whitehair are assisting with the application process with Nick Sizemore for the school to become a Green School.
8. Tree trails – Pam reported that Lexi provided a document with her inventory of the trees and tags on the Wiles Branch Trail. Pam is in communication with Gary Madonna to help identify missing trees on the trail. We also need to order tags for the Cone Branch tree trail and Bill Spare has also volunteered to help with that trail. Need to update QR code for Wiles Branch trail to go directly to the Story map. We need some maintenance done around the trees. Mark Carney can create the new QR codes and format to make stickers to cover the existing QR codes on old tree tags. Pam will get him the information and also connect Bill Spare with Dr. Roessler to review the needs for the Cone Branch Trail.
9. Recycling Event in October. Ann wondered about how many pounds of recycled material were collected. JJ did not have any vendors report to him. The team discussed offering the event once a year—in the spring—vs twice a year. Josh discussed the timing of the event and perhaps being open later in the day.
10. Next meeting date – third Tuesday – December 17th