

Sustainability Committee February 17th Meeting Agenda, January 20th Meeting Minutes:

Pollinator Seed Library at the Middletown Library

Library Green Expo

Bird City Certification

Bee City USA Certification

Community Compost Bin Signage

St. Thomas Moore & Senior Center Raised Plant Bed Partnership

Arbor Day Tree Planting / Resident Tree Give Away

Next Meeting: Tuesday March 24th 4:00 PM.

Town of Middletown Sustainability Accomplishments & Activities in 2025:

Sustainable Maryland Certification

Tree City USA Certification Approved

Upcoming Food Forest at Burnt Bridge Crossing Park

Bee City USA Certification Approved

1262 Trees & Shrubs planted at Wiles Branch Park via Stream Restoration project

Green Lecture Series Library guest speakers

Arbor Day Tree Planting at Remsberg Park

Town Street Light Conversion to LED program

Agriculture Day activities for 1st graders at Middletown High School

Community Pollinator Garden maintenance at Memorial Park

Bird Walk at Wiles Branch Park

Pollinator Seed Library at Middletown Library

Cone Branch walking trail trees and birds identification

Created and Installed Educational sign about Chimney Swifts at Chimney Swift tower in Wiles Branch Park

Frederick County Day of Action Tree Maintenance at Wiles Branch Park and Baltimore National Pike

New Ionna EV Charging Station at Cross Stone Commons

Created a Month-long Educational Display at Middletown Library reg. importance of planting natives

Sustainability Committee Scarecrow entry

Fall Recycling Event

Middletown High School Soccer & MVAA Storm Water Management pond clean-up, landscaping clean-up and Tree Maintenance at Memorial Tree grove

DRAFT 01 20 2026 Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Time: 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. In-person. Lifesize was also available

In attendance: Pam McDonald, Kevin Stottlemyer, JJ Hartner, Emily Bomgardner, Agnesanne Danehey, Sean O'Keefe, Ann Payne

Meeting Discussion Items:

1. December Minute meetings approved.
2. Pollinator Seed Library at the Middletown Library- Pam will set up the two boxes with alphabetized sections and Lexi will take over managing the restocking the seeds. JJ will place the seed order when it is ready.
3. Library Green Expo: Emily reported that the flyer is ready to go for the Expo. There is still room for some vendors at the fair—they have about 20 vendors. Looking for more input from the area schools—will reach out to the Green schools. Tent and table outside for the animal program with a presentation; all shred truck, other recycling options will be available. Food trucks, coffee cart. Emily asked about Burgess Miller doing a proclamation for “Sustainability Day”—Kevin will ask.
4. Community Compost Bin Signage: Kevin ran the sign info past the commissioners and they approved. JJ will place the order with the vendor.

5. St. Thomas Moore & Senior Center Raised Plant Bed Partnership: Cheryl N. Neilson, Native Havens LLC is donating her design services to create some plans for the beds to be replanted with native pollinator plants. She is meeting with Pam and Anne on Wednesday, 1/21 to begin the design process. Lexi facilitated that the Boy Scouts that meet at the school over the summer will take care of maintenance of the garden. Ann envisions a big party and PR splash to local media to unveil the gardens to the town.
6. Bird City: First report since the town became a Bird City is due in March 2026. Agnesanne will be taking the lead in submitting it. We can forward projects we remember implementing to her from 2024-2025.
7. Burnt Bridge Park: SilvoCulture is beginning to mark property for planting of tree placement.
8. Memorial Pollinator Garden—Ann reported that the tree leading into the garden has branches that are too low and need to be trimmed. The path leading to the garden also needs to be restored and mulched.
9. Legacy Tree planting in Middletown—a new project for the town that we agreed to contribute to. It will be for commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States. It will be a Valley Forge American Elm. \$800-1,000 for our part to contribute to the town. A plaque will be designed with the town, Main Street Middletown, and Sustainability committee. Initial plan is to have it planted just off Main Street in the open area behind where the annual Christmas tree has been situated.
10. Speakers for the Green Speaker Series at the library for 2026. The outreach committee will meet to explore speaker options. Ann suggested finding a speaker about ground water issues and that we can invite commissioners and water and sewer staff. Pam will organize the committee meeting. Pam also agreed to reach out to Karen Whitehair about her availability to work on the outreach committee and organize an Ag Day project.
11. Next Meeting: Tuesday February 17th 4:00 PM.
12. 2025 Projects completed by the Committee are listed below. The team discussed reports that will be due again in 2026: Tree City is an annual report; Bird City report will be due; JJ will check about Bee City. For 2026, we will offer the free tree program to residents again (100 trees to be offered, up to 2/person)—JJ will look at our website and reactivate the free tree form for residents to submit. Install tree ID signs on trees on the Cone Branch Trail and Wiles Branch Trail. Have two spring bird walks on Wiles Branch and Cone Branch trails. Check with Karen about participation in AG Day again in the spring. See other activities planned to be repeated below.

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**Town of Middletown Sustainability Accomplishments & Activities in 2025:
“x” means we plan to do these activities in 2026 as well.**

Sustainable Maryland Certification (Cert. every 3 years).

Tree City USA Certification Approved x

Upcoming Food Forest at Burnt Bridge Crossing Park x

Bee City USA Certification Approved x (Check to see if 2026 report is needed)

1262 Trees & Shrubs planted at Wiles Branch Park via Stream Restoration project
(Completed)

Green Lecture Series Library guest speakers x

Arbor Day Tree Planting at Remsberg Park x

Town Street Light Conversion to LED program (In process).

Agriculture Day activities for 1st graders at Middletown High School x

Community Pollinator Garden maintenance at Memorial Park x

Bird Walk at Wiles Branch Park x

Pollinator Seed Library at Middletown Library x

Cone Branch walking trail trees and birds identification Created and Installed x
Educational sign about Chimney Swifts at Chimney Swift tower

in Wiles Branch Park. Install a second one in 2026?
Frederick County Day of Action Tree Maintenance at Wiles Branch Park and
Baltimore National Pike x
New Ionna EV Charging Station at Cross Stone Commons (Completed).
Created a Month-long Educational Display at Middletown Library reg. importance
of
planting natives x
Have St. Thomas Moore students create the display about their garden project x
Sustainability Committee Scarecrow entry x
Fall Recycling Event x (Will be one week earlier).
Middletown High School Soccer & MVAA Storm Water Management pond clean-
up,
landscaping clean-up and Tree Maintenance at Memorial Tree grove x
Bird City Certification x (Every 2 years).
Resident Tree program around Arbor Day x