

## **Middletown Sustainability Committee Minutes October 19, 2021**

1. PRESENT: Cindy Unangst, Ann Payne, Kevin Stottlemyer, Erin Carney, Mark Carney, Agnesanne Danehey, Kristen King, Gene Fleeman, Bill Spare, Edamarie Mattei & Kris Colby, /Cindy will ask Ben and Kristen if they wish to be added to our distribution list.
2. New member introductions -- Edamarie Mattei & Kris Colby of Backyard Bounty, and Karen Whitehair, a freelance writer who is going thru the Master Naturalist program.
3. September meeting minutes were approved.
4. MAYORS MONARCH PLEDGE - Cindy is now the Project Director and awaits a response from the lead Gold Award Girl Scout.
5. BASECAMP PROJECTS:
  - a. POLLINATOR GARDENS: Spring-blooming plants and edging for Memorial Park are planned. Erin reports that +/- 40 of the 117 Monarch caterpillars her family collected were from the Memorial Park Pollinator Garden. Erin reported the happy news that the Richland Golf Course Manager applied to join Monarchs in the Rough.” His next step will be to become an Audubon Sanctuary. The town has approved construction of the pebble border we proposed around our Memorial Park garden, installation date tba. A Memorial Park pollinator garden care schedule will be circulated by Pam and Ann. Green Team members are asked to team up with a partner to ‘adopt’ a month to monitor/tend the garden during the growing season.
    - i. Village of Foxfield ‘eyebrow’ and ‘circle’ soil analysis has been received. We can now supplement existing plantings. Edamarie offered to evaluate the sites and help identify plants to be removed.
    - ii. A Cone Branch Pocket Park pollinator garden, suggested by Burgess Miller, will be considered for a planting next year. Fifty+ trees and shrubs were planted there earlier this year.
    - iii. Cindy & Burgess Miller spoke to one of Ms. Steger’s classes. They offered students weeding as a service credit.
  - b. COMPOST BINS – The bin site is currently planned for placement in the Elm Street parking lot. Kevin spoke to the property owner near Elm Street about the placement of the compost bin next to the dumpster behind Dempsey’s. No parking spaces will be lost. There will be weekly pickup. A second barrel can be supplied at an only slightly higher cost if the first seems inadequate.
  - c. LUNCH OUT OF LANDFILLS - Joe Richardson says the waiting period at the Elementary School is over and the program is moving ahead. The older students are aware of the program.

- d. WEBSITE PROGRESS - There is a new logo for Earth Day, Green Expo. We will have a composting info area on our website. It was asked if the realtor who offered to help might be interested in helping with green housing. We would like to post Joyce Tuten's Climate slide show. The Gift Tree Program was added to our website. Gene has added a new "What's New" pop-up section.
  - e. Kris and Edamarie will send us information we can use about leaving leaf litter on the ground during the winter.
6. TREE PLANTINGS – Fifty shrubs donated by Chesapeake Bay Foundation were planted by 20 volunteers (1/2 of whom were students) on 10/15/21. Hundreds of trees and shrubs will be put on Harris Farm. Frederick Seibert& Associates will be helping with this next spring.
  7. EROSION AND RUNOFF PROJECTS - A \$1,000,000 contract for Wiles Branch Park's riparian stream restoration will begin in spring 2022. An erosion control culvert will be replaced next to Cone Branch and another north of Linden. A maintenance schedule (back of agenda) has been set up and others are encouraged to join Cindy. Dates correspond to inspection times. Dates can be posted on Basecamp.
  8. MOWING - Pesticide spraying continues at Wiles Branch Dog Park. Cindy is joining the discussion to end such spraying. Glyphosate has been linked to canine leukemia.
  9. NEW POCKET PARK - An Eagle Scout is directing this park on W. Green and Willow. As no plant details were received by the town, Cindy will consult with the scout about appropriate native plants prior to the early November planting.
  10. GIFT TREE PROGRAM – Cindy will revisit flyer box pricing and potential locations. Flyer box should be installed at Cone Branch and on w. Main St. pocket park. We have a drawing for a gift tree grove in Cone Branch, where some tree planting has taken place. Price range is \$300-600.
  11. HERITAGE FESTIVAL – Participants were thanked. Ann will send estimated custom event table cloth prices to Cindy.
  12. COMPOST BINS – Greenbelt has extra that we can purchase, but we would need to pick them up.
  13. NEXT MEETING – 5pm, November 16
  14. Meeting ended at 6:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Payne