

Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
Date and Time: Tuesday, December 19, 2023, 05:00-6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Cindy Unangst, Karen Whitehair, Kevin Stottlemyer, Sean O’Keefe, Gene Fleeman (via Lifesize), Ann Payne, Bill Spare (via Lifesize), Lexi Sassi (via Lifesize), Pam McDonald, Kristin King, Agnesanne Danehey, John Lain (via Lifesize); guests – Deb Portney, Waneta Gagne, Kathy Vesely, Barb Wetzel, Cassandra Ladino, Laurie Jenkins, Nicole Whitehair

Meeting discussion items:

1. October meeting minutes approved.
2. Green Schools – Laurie Jenkins spoke about Green Schools efforts at FCPS
3. Bird City designation – Deb Portney spoke about the Bird City Maryland initiative, and also about protecting chimney swifts.
4. Green Lecture series with library – October talk on Saturday the 28th with Karen Whitehair talking about monarch butterflies was well attended; discuss potential topics for 2024 Green Talks. Nancy Lawson? Sam Droege, bee expert? Birding for beginner’s speaker?
5. Outreach sub-committee report – lots of interest in mosquito control and sustainable-minded laundry detergent products at the Heritage Festival; thoughts going forward for 2024 Green Expo and more? thoughts on public education campaign, especially regarding citizen education on trees, outreach and social media?
6. Pollinator demonstration gardens – Memorial Park garden – proposed list of plants to install this fall in space previously filled up with Rattlesnake Master seedlings; Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle planting – Cindy met with one of Edamarie’s employees to look at the spring plantings; considering the drought year, the plants look great; thistle is still an issue at the circle, and Cindy will talk to the Public Works crew about removing the liriopoe on the eyebrow next spring.
7. Mayor’s Monarch Pledge – report was due December 1st and approved on November 15th.
8. Compost project – two more compost bins available for purchase at municipal center; one was raffled off at the Heritage Festival and we have one for next year’s Green Expo. Community compost numbers are still looking good and seem to be up from last year; October was 814 pounds and November was 704 pounds.
9. Tree plantings – tree planting maintenance/inventory schedule (see below); letter of support sent for SilvoCulture grant request; Healthy Forests, Healthy Waters tree planting will take place next spring; McClintock Distillery employees will be planting 60+ trees at Remsberg Park on March 8th.
10. Tree trails – Jim Roessler is working on text for Cone Branch tree trail. New trees to add to Wiles Branch tree trail – white ash and black willow.
11. Tree City USA Growth Award potential projects– Cindy and Bill completed tree inventories of past plantings this fall and completed the one-year review of the County Park plantings which look good. Cindy started inventorying the trees on town-owned properties this fall with Memorial Park and the North Pointe tot lot being completed.
12. Gift Tree Program – red bud was planted for gift tree application that came in earlier this year; Adam Stanzione might be submitting an application.

13. Recycling event – fall event held on Saturday, October 21st went well with student volunteers and girl scouts helping out that we hadn't counted on; next year's dates are March 9th and October 19th.
14. Trex plastic bag collection – we can still take plastic bags to MES.
15. Battery recycling at the Municipal building – we have one high school student helping out that seems very committed!
16. Solar panel study for property adjacent to water tank off Layla has been approved.
17. Water conservation and resiliency plans for major town users (Mark)
18. Wildlife Habitat Advisors program – Karen is interested in being involved in this program.
19. Frederick County Sustainability Commission meeting – municipal green team forum set for February 21st.
20. Bee City – annual report is due in February
21. Middletown Health and Wellness Expo – March 2 from 10am – 2pm at the Middletown Firehall Activities Center
22. January meeting date – fourth Tuesday – January 23rd (change from normal due to MLK holiday)

GOALS FOR 2023:

PLANT 100 TREES IN 2023 – 135 planted in April ✓									
GIFT TREE PROGRAM - GOAL OF \$1000 – \$358 paid in April									
QUANTIFY/SHOW PROGRESS ON 25% CANOPY BY 2025									
HOLD GREEN EXPO - ✓									
SUPPORT MES & MMS LOOL PROGRAM - VOLUNTEER SUPPORT -									
PROMOTE & SELL 20 COMPOSTING BINS – 8 sold									
PROMOTE & SELL 25 RAIN BARRELS (GRANT REQUEST)?									
EVALUATE & RECOMMEND STREETLIGHT BUYBACK PROGRAM TO TOWN BOARD									
CREATE 2 AC POLLINATOR MEADOW NEAR SOLAR ARRAY									
EDUCATION ON STORMWATER PERMIT PROGRAMS									

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Dark Sky policy

TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

February 6 (Tuesday) 12:30-2pm – FRO area at Wiles Branch Park
February 9 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area at Wiles Branch Park
February 23 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area at Wiles Branch Park