

Sustainability Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2020

Present: Cindy Unangst, Chris Goodman, Mark Carney, Erin Carney, Pam McDonald, Agnesanne Danehey, Jamie Moore, John Lain, and Ann Payne

September meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

- **The Tree planting at North Pointe** drew fewer volunteers than anticipated. Cindy expressed gratitude for the participation of Jean LaPadula's two daughters and friends, Mark Carney and his grandson, and Ann Payne. The sloping soil was very dry and rocky; anticipated rain did not appear; the town will water either today or tomorrow.

- **News Stories:** Our Sustainability Committee was featured in two stories in the Frederick News Post; the North Pointe tree planting and our status as a new Bee City USA.

- **Tree Trail** at Cone Branch: Dr. Roessler is working on the new tree trail at Cone Branch. No update.

- **The Memorial Tree Program** will host its first Memorial Tree (a large Dogwood) and accompanying Memorial Bench dedication on Saturday, November 7 at 10:00am, Linden Boulevard and Cone Branch Trail. Renaming the trail after Mr. Corl will also be marked and honored at that time.

A second large Dogwood will also be installed to honor the memory of a beloved pet belonging to the Kishimoto family.

The next dedication ceremony and planting will be held in fall of 2021. Requests for trees in the interim will be acknowledged as they come in and entered in the record. All orders will be announced at the 2021 Green Expo.

- **Bee City USA** (Mark) – Mark set up a BASECAMP online site for us to communicate and record our progress relating to Bee City. We need to install two 24"x24" official signs. Mark, Cindy, and Drew will determine the exact installation site. It was suggested they be put at town entrances

(pending board approval). We can also customize other signs using the BCUSA logo.

To install the BCUSA Pollinator Garden, we will seek a professional to design, plant, and install the garden. Ann will supply Mark with contact information about contacting Native Havens, run by native plant contractor, James Dillon. North Pointe was one possible site suggested, despite some neighborly objections to the tree planting.

The Base Camp Site allows us the opportunity to identify and plan BCUSA activities and events. Pam, Ann, and others will help Mark select native plants to add to our pollinator plant list.

- **Comprehensive Plan Sustainability** official discussion has been moved to December. Mark will post the Sustainability Chapter on a Google Doc to which we can add suggestions. Pam complimented the work already done. It was suggested that organizational work is needed to pull the contents into a cohesive document. All are invited to jump into this task.
- **Are we green?** To count our solar panels toward our 'greenness' would require a lot of work juggling SRE credits, as the operator purchased the credits. The EPA suggested we purchase wind power credits and retire them. It was agreed that attempting to negotiate the street light issue again might make more sense. Poolesville has apparently successfully done this. Mark will inquire how.
- **Public Education.** There was agreement we sorely lack an educated public on the topic of home owner eco services or replacing turf grass lawns. Cindy reported there were many more responses and interest to the recent 'comp plan' town survey than in the past. Fans of longer grass, however, were not plentiful. We would like to know how many use lawn services? How many would like to employ more sustainable lawn services?
- It was suggested that a step-by-step plan be drawn up to educate the public; that we ensure the town itself models desirable practices; that we create and/or publicize model citizen lawn conversions; that we consider Foxfield rewilding or a Foxfield Section 6 model. We agreed a subcommittee was needed to further develop a public education plan. Mark will create a new Basecamp called "Native Plant Landscaping."

- **Community Compost Service:** Erin Carney reports hearing from Phil Westcott of Key City Composting about a proposal to install for citizens a 64 gallon Rubbermaid drop-off bin with a disposable liner. KCC would pick up the compost weekly for the price of \$1560 a year. Gaithersburg has such a service. Possible locations could be behind the restaurants at Cross Stone Commons, or Wiles Branch where the original compost pickup was planned. Erin will find out if we, the town, would get to keep the ripe compost. There was no action, pending further details and discussion.
- **Welcome to John Lain.** John, from Middletown Glen, sat in on the meeting. His community has interest in topics similar to ours. We look forward to continuing our relationship with John and his community.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Payne