

Middletown Sustainability Minutes 3 15 2022

Time: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 from 5:00-6:30 P.M.

Attendance (in-person and virtual meeting): Cindy Unangst, Gene Fleeman, Ann Payne, Agnesanne Danehey, Adam Stanzione, Edamarie Mattei, Mark Carney, Kevin Stottlemyer, Pam McDonald.

Meeting Minutes:

1. February meeting minutes approved with a few edits.
2. Goals for 2022 and updated Annual Report – A Look at Where we Are. Sustainable Maryland has Middletown correctly certified now and the town's information is on the Sustainable Maryland website. Cindy shared the 2019 list of achievements. We will need to recertify by July 2022. The updated goals for 2022 are listed below after the minutes. The team discussed how to procure and sell rain barrels for the town as our past suppliers are no longer making them. MEA has a lot of grant money available to buy back street lights to convert to LEDs. Burgess Miller is interested in the town pursuing a Solar array pollinator meadow by the solar array at Remsburg Park.
3. BASECAMP projects:
 - Pollinator demonstration gardens – edging and stone path for Memorial Park—on schedule for town staff; Ann to take pictures of weeds in garden and frost heaves of native plants and share on Basecamp for volunteer garden caretakers.
 - Plant tags for pollinator garden: The team decided to start with small individual tags that we write names on each tag (25 for \$34). Also discussed the Fountain Rock and Urbana sign with QR code that a National Park Service volunteer designed (\$100 to print). It will also need a stand designed and installed. This may be an option for a later time.
 - Left in budget: \$655 for fiscal year. Cindy inquired about the budget for pollinator garden plants. Edamarie graciously volunteered to donate native plants for the memorial pollinator garden.
 - Bee City USA – renewal application submitted end of February; will need to start working on Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) plan for next year's submittal. Mark reported there are municipal models that we can copy.
 - Compost project – bin site at Memorial Park. Bin has been half full. Need to keep getting reminders out to the community. Town will pick up 20 more compost bins to sell at cost at \$40 by the Green Expo.
 - Lunch Out Of Landfills (LOOL) – started Feb.28th for 6th grade students at MMS. Green team helped the first week but the students have taken the lead for the program. They are not weighing the waste so will not have the data that we would like to see and track. LOOL could still use volunteers to help transport food from lunch room to the food bank. NextTrex plastic recycling program is in place at Middletown Elementary School.
5. Tree plantings – Potomac Edison program on Friday, April 29th; Arbor Day proclamation at 10 a.m. Tree planting maintenance schedule (see below); Keep Maryland Beautiful grant

application for EarthPlanter trees (grant announcement not received in time for March meeting).

Cindy ordered the following trees for residents and town: 35 Dogwoods (31 for residents), 30 Redbuds (25 for residents), 30 Serviceberries (17 for residents), 30 Scarlet Oaks (14 for residents), 30 Red Maples (9 for residents), 30 Willow Oaks (3 for residents), plus 10 Sweet Gums, 5 Sycamores, 5 Tulip Poplars for the balance of trees for the town.

Town Tree planting idea: Plant some red maples and serviceberries along parking area behind the Food Bank as part of 100 trees to plant on 4/29.

Cindy matched people wanting help with trees with nearby neighbors that have volunteered to help. Cindy has sent out letter to all residents getting trees with all needed information.

6. Mosquito control in town stormwater management facilities (Ann P./Karen W.). Ann suggested a speaker about mosquito control issue can join the May Green Team meeting and have a Q&A. There will also be a business at the Green Expo—Mosquito Hunters—that offers sustainable mosquito control options.
7. Tree City USA – growth award was approved!; should receive materials by Arbor Day
8. Green Expo – planning is in full force! This will be the same day at Color The Streets. Main Street Middletown will be doing joint advertising and will have mechanism to direct people to both events. Need to have good signage to Green Expo. Cindy has large sign for Main Street announcing the Green Expo. Ann Marie of FC recycling wants to bring 26 foot trailer for recycling textiles—Cindy will learn more about this option.
 - For the musician from 12-2, we will need a mic and speakers.
 - We will need photographers to take lots of photos of event. Green team volunteers?
 - We will do lots of Facebook posts to get residents excited about the event.
 - Can we send Green Expo Flyers to schools?
 - April Green Team meeting will be prep for Green Expo: Make signs, etc.
 - The Vine Plant Outlet (Mary)-Pam will ask if she would donate a hanging basket
9. Gift Tree Program – flyer boxes were installed at Wiles Branch Park, Memorial Park and on Cone Branch Trail – please monitor as you frequent those areas; beautiful new brochures were perfected by Pam.
10. April meeting date – third Tuesday – April 19th

GOALS FOR 2022:

PLANT 100 TREES IN 2022 –					
CREATE A TREE GIFT PROGRAM - GOAL OF \$1000 –					
QUANTIFY/SHOW PROGRESS ON 25% CANOPY BY 2025					
HOLD GREEN EXPO -					
SUPPORT MES LOOL PROGRAM - VOLUNTEER SUPPORT -					

PROMOTE & SELL 20 COMPOSTING BINS –					
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:

- Habitat advisor volunteers

FUTURE PLANTING AREAS:

- North Pointe thicket (see Ann P.) – willow tree and button bushes

TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

March 8 (Tuesday) 12:30-2pm – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane
March 15 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane
March 18 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane

April 5 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – North Pointe plantings. Note sites for new trees.
April 12 (Tuesday) 12:30-2pm – North Pointe plantings
April 26 (Tuesday) 1:30-3pm – Middletown Parkway plantings

May 10 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am - FRO area off Layla Drive
May 20 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area off Layla Drive

June 3 (Friday) 10-11:30am – Wiles Branch dog park
June 7 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – Cone Branch pocket park
June 17 (Friday) 10-11:30am – Cone Branch pocket park