

**08 15 23 Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Date and Time: Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 05:00-6:30 p.m.**

**Attendance: Cindy Unangst, Gene Fleeman, Kevin Stottlemyer, Pam McDonald, Lexi Sassi, Kristin King, Ann Payne, Sean O'Keefe**

Meeting discussion items:

1. August meeting minutes approved.
2. Green Lecture series with library – Karen Cannon with Mobilize Frederick and Barb Trader spoke about climate change preparedness in August to a good-sized audience; October talk is scheduled for Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am with Karen Whitehair talking about monarch butterflies; there will be no talks scheduled for November and December due to the move to the new library; thanks to Gene for getting the Green Talks videos on our YouTube channel and to Jonathan for helping get the videos off iPads and ready for Gene!
3. Little Seed Library – a few people said they have been attending these workshops. Next up: Planning a Native Plant Garden on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30am with Edamarie Mattei! Cindy and Mark Carney met with the new library folks about red maples near Dean Lane that the HOA wanted to remove. Cindy told them that the red maples need to stay, but some of the arborvitae can be removed. A magnolia will need to be removed for the new walking path to the library from the subdivision. There will be a change to the landscape plan for the library with eastern red cedars being planted in place of oakleaf hydrangeas on the east side.
4. Outreach sub-committee report – the committee met to prepare for the Heritage Festival. A number of plans are in place for the booth. Booth is moving from #41 to #40 position. The festival ends at 5pm but will break down earlier since attendance is so low later in the day.
  - Laminated mosquito info sheet
  - Milkweed seed shake for kids
  - Sustainable home side –laundry sheets with directions, battery collection box, soap nuts, compost bin
  - Banner -horizontal, but won't be here for Heritage Fest – order for Green Expo
  - Tallamy Homegrown National Park signs
  - Kristin will send Gene a blurb about soap nuts.
  - Pam will send Gene a blurb on milkweed seeds.
  - Ann will create an info page for sustainable laundry sheets.
  - Promote rain barrels and compost bins.
5. Pollinator demonstration gardens – Memorial Park garden – new plants to install this fall in area where Rattlesnake Master seedlings have spread; area has been cleared out and is ready to plant; Edamarie volunteered to get the plants. Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle planting – being watered three times a week; need to figure out a maintenance schedule; Cindy and Bill met up there and 6 of the Village residents were already there helping with the weeding last month. Residents seem happy to help but may not want to take the initiative to organize ongoing maintenance. The northwest side of the eyebrow has tall grasses – not clear if these are native or not. Cindy and Bill did some work at the circle where the thistles were addressed.
6. Compost project – two more compost bins available for purchase at municipal center – the other two will be used for raffles at Heritage Festival and next year's Green Expo; we are advertising the Fred. Co. Dept. of Energy & Environment's fall compost bin and rain barrel program; the town compost bin had 1,300 lbs. in August! Largest haul so far!

7. Tree plantings – tree planting maintenance/inventory schedule (see below); letter of support sent for SilvoCulture grant request; a redbud seed collection will take place in early October on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>; black walnut collection is going on now until October 7<sup>th</sup>.
8. 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.
9. Tree City USA Growth Award potential projects– Cindy will start recruiting help to work on Growth Award projects.
10. Gift Tree Program – late spring application came in for a redbud to be planted this fall; plaque has been ordered; location is tree grove off Linden Boulevard; QR code decals have arrived and been placed on brochure holders; Ryan cut the plexiglass to place the other decals and Mark will get them placed.
11. Recycling event – fall event will be held on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> with a time frame for the event of 9am – Noon (last spring was 8-11am); the paint can and electronics locations will be swapped to minimize congestion; we hope to get students involved for civic engagement.
12. Trex plastic bag collection – we can still take plastic bags to MES; one committee member indicated it would be helpful to have an earlier heads-up about whether a pickup is needed and how large the pickup is.
13. Battery recycling at the Municipal building – we received the boxes, and the response has been overwhelming; first box was filled up within two weeks at 19 pounds and the second filled up within a week later at 11.9 pounds; we need to recruit students to help with the battery collection boxes and promotion.
14. Weed control on Town streets and storm drains – Cindy is going to pull weeds by hand ahead of Heritage Festival.
15. Wildlife Habitat Advisors program – Karen is interested in being involved in this program.
16. Frederick County Sustainability Commission meeting – discussion about a municipal green team forum
17. October meeting date – third Tuesday – October 17<sup>th</sup>

**GOALS FOR 2023:**

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

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Habitat advisor volunteers
- Dark Sky policy

### **TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE**

**September 22 (Friday) 9-10:30am – inventory of Middletown Parkway trees**

**September 29 (Friday) 9-10:30am - inventory of North Pointe subdivision trees**

**October 3 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am - inventory of Wiles Branch Park trees and install tree tubes.**

**October 6 (Friday) 9-10:30am – inventory of Cone Branch Pocket Park trees**

**October 10 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am - inventory of trees off Layla Drive**

**October 17 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – check on tree-of-heaven along Foxfield walking trail.**