

Middletown Sustainability Meeting Minutes: January 17 2023

Date and Time: Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Attendance in person and via Lifesize: Lexi Sassi, Cindy Unangst, Kevin Stottlemeyer, Agnesanne Danehey, Bill Spare, Gene Fleeman, Ann Payne, Pam McDonald, Sean O'Keefe

Minutes:

1. December meeting minutes approved.
2. Green Lecture series with library (Ann) – Next lecture is this Saturday, January 21st @ 1:00pm – Electrify Everything with Kathleen Rall and Barb Trader. Cindy plans to be there and will have a signup sheet to track attendance. Ann or Cindy to introduce speakers. Agnesanne mentioned following up with attendees—perhaps a task that the Outreach Committee could manage. Discussed recording the lecture using iPhones and contacting Jessica Elder to see if she was available to provide technical assistance. Karen Whitehair program on Saturday, March 11 at 1 p.m. about pollinator gardens (this will be the same day as the Recycling event).
3. Outreach sub-committee report – The committee will be meeting next week to plan strategic activities for 2023 including creating native tree/pollinator education door-hangers and the no-idle zone letter to the Frederick Board of Education.
4. Little Seed Library – Ann reported she has been meeting with Lenora Grackin from the Middletown Library and there is a lot of excitement about the Seed Library program. Lenora has planned a speaker series throughout the spring, summer and fall. Lenora has figured out how to run the seed library and will include coordinating programs for children. We will be partners with the library on this—Ann has added talks that will emphasize native pollinator landscaping. The 2023 Gardening Series programs as of today (all program are on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. except March 11, which is a Green Talk:
 - March 11–Small Gardens, Big impact: Why Pollinator Gardens Matter
 - March 25– Seed Saving and Starting Seeds Indoors
 - April 29– Preparing for a Successful Garden Season
 - May 27– Composting (at Foxhaven)
 - June 24– The Perfect Tomato
 - July 22– Natural Ways to Deal with Pests, Fungus, and Disease
 - August 5–Seed Harvesting and Saving
 - August 26– Canning, Preserving, and Fermenting
 - September 23– Planning a Native Plant Garden
 - October 28–Milkweed and Monarch Butterflies
5. Website updates (Gene) – terms and conditions disclaimer; connections page. Town attorney continues to review the website information and will finalize a disclaimer page for the town that will include the Green Team website.

6. Green Expo – Saturday, April 22nd – sent out Save-the-Date email – Very good response so far to invitation with close to 20 vendors so far. Cindy will add the seed library to the event. Cindy will look into a food truck to be at the event.
7. Bee City USA – The town is looking to use the resolution that we currently have for the IPM requirement. Mark to follow up—was not available this evening.
8. Mayor’s Monarch Pledge – will plan to re-pledge for this year. Cindy reported we have renewed our pledge and will have similar action items for this year.
9. Pollinator demonstration gardens – Memorial Park garden plant theft and response— Edamarie confirmed that she will replace the stolen plants in the spring. She will be providing a final list of plants for the Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle planting; Agnesanne brought up the idea of planning and implementing contiguous native pollinators gardens throughout the town. This would be a large initiative that would seek to link gardens in town, businesses, farms, residential yards creating corridors for pollinators to thrive. There was a lot of enthusiasm for this “big idea”—it would be exciting to have a place on our website to track and map the gardens. Gene suggested a graphic.
10. Compost project – compost bins available for purchase at municipal center – 5 sold in the last couple of weeks! Residents learned about the availability of the bins through the town newsletter. Town compost collection at Memorial Park in December was 400 lbs. For the year March-Dec—5,227 lbs. or 2.6 tons total.
11. Lunch Out Of Landfills – FCPS (through Travis Tracy) pays Key City Compost invoices. The county is reviewing the funding (currently \$20,000)—hoping this will increase to cover all programs in the county.
12. Tree plantings – Updated tree planting maintenance/inventory schedule (see below); We did not receive the SilvoCulture grant for fruit and nut trees. A lot of applicants were grouped with us and none were funded. Cindy and Kevin will be meeting with the operations manager from SilvoCulture on Friday at 2 p.m. to get feedback for future grant opportunities.
 - a. Arbor Day tree planting will be Friday, April 28th in pm—will do 50 trees for the tree planting event because we will also be staking and mulching each tree. We will be offering 100 free trees to residents again through the Potomac Edison program.
13. Tree City USA – Cindy submitted the Tree City annual report, as well as the Growth Award application.
14. Gift Tree Program – flyer boxes at Wiles Branch Park, Memorial Park and on Cone Branch Trail – please monitor as you frequent those areas; another new application came in! Magnolia Tree and Fringe tree to be planted by Cone Branch Trail. Cindy reported that it looks like the Memorial Tree garden will not be affected by the reduced work project to renovate the culvert under Linden Blvd.
15. Utility work in Glenbrook and impact to street trees - Kevin attended the meeting with Shentel and he felt that the company is working to act responsibly and seeks to limit any disturbance to trees and landscape in the community. He reported that they have the equipment needed to bore underground and not disturb tree roots or sidewalks.

16. Recycling event – will look to continue program biannually with next event on March 11, 2023. From 8-11 a.m. A flyer has been created and Ann will post on social media.
17. No Idle Zone – discussion—to Outreach Committee
18. Trex plastic bag collection - discussion. Mark attended the Trex tour but was not present at the meeting to report on it. Trex collection is still happening at the Middletown Elementary school—they take a lot of types of plastic.
19. Streetlight program – discussion—PE will be replacing all street lights with LEDs.
20. Volunteer thank you luncheon for committee – end of January/early February. Burgess Miller has invited the Green Team to lunch to thank the group for their volunteer efforts. Looks like a Monday and Tuesday will work for most.
21. February meeting date – third Tuesday – February 21st

GOALS FOR 2023:

PLANT 100 TREES IN 2023 –				
GIFT TREE PROGRAM - GOAL OF \$1000 –				
QUANTIFY/SHOW PROGRESS ON 25% CANOPY BY 2025				
HOLD GREEN EXPO -				
SUPPORT MES & MMS LOOL PROGRAM - VOLUNTEER SUPPORT -				
PROMOTE & SELL 20 COMPOSTING BINS – 3 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:

- Habitat advisor volunteers

TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

- February 7 (Tuesday) 12:30-2pm – FRO area at Wiles Branch Park**
- February 10 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area at Wiles Branch Park**
- February 17 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area at Wiles Branch Park**

March 10 (Friday) 10:30-12pm – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane
March 14 (Tuesday) 12:30-2pm – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane
March 17 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane