

Memorandum

To: Middletown Sustainability Committee

From: Kevin Stottlemeyer, Chairperson, & JJ Hartner, Staff Planner

Date: January 17, 2025

RE: January Sustainability Committee meeting - Tuesday, January 21st 4:00pm in person and via Lifesize

Meeting link

<https://call.lifesizecloud.com/12429552>

Passcode

21769

Phone

United States:+1 (312) 584-2401

Meeting discussion items:

1. Bee City
2. Bird City
3. Silviculture
4. Green Lecture Series
5. Bat Box
6. Website access from Gene
7. Tree Trails - providing information to the town
8. Peregrine Falcons at the water tower
9. Next meeting date-third Tuesday- February 18th.

Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Time: 4:00 - 5:00 pm in person and via Lifesize

In attendance: Bill Steigelmann, Kevin Stottlemeyer, Karen Whitehair, JJ Hartner, Ann Payne, Pam McDonald, Lexi Sassi, Bill Spare, Agnesanne Danehey, Sean O'Keefe

Meeting minutes:

1. November meeting minutes approved.
2. Review upcoming goals for 2025. Kevin reviewed our activities from 2024 and the team discussed what to keep and where we might cut down on some activities for 2025. Kevin asked for volunteers to take the lead for each activity. See list below.
3. Green Lecture series with library – The team needs to start to plan for topics for 2025. Ann Payne discussed the possibility of creating some field trips (such as to Glenstone, Mt Cuba native plant research facility) that would be dynamic and educational for residents.
4. SilvoCulture grant was completed with town input and the grant should have been submitted by 12/15.
5. Green Schools: Middletown High School's application to become a Green School was submitted today, 12/17! The Lucy School is on track to apply and become a Green School in 2025. Carey Murphy, Janet Ady and Karen Whitehair are assisting the teachers with the application process.
6. Next meeting date – third Tuesday – January 21th

Middletown Green Team: Recent Programs and Projects and 2025 Goals:

1. Bird City-maintain status (Agnesanne willing to take the lead)
Next report due in 2026.
-Possible 2025 activities for Bird City:
 - 1) Educate the public about the Chimney Swift tower.
 - 2) Monitor blue bird boxes at Foxfield trail to see if they are still active with blue birds or need to be moved.
2. Quarterly Green Talks in partnership with the Library. (Karen Whitehair-lead). Ann suggested possible field trips to organize and take residents to Glenstone (glenstone.org) and/or Mt Cuba (<https://mtcubacenter.org>)

3. Outreach Subcommittee will continue. (Pam is chair)
4. Pollinator Demonstration Gardens (Foxfield and Memorial Park)—continue with maintenance—Ann will send out sign up for 2025. Ann suggested the town consider adding a larger pollinator garden with trails over time.
5. Community composting program —Kevin will monitor
6. greenmiddletown.com website maintenance and updates: Monica Hauser has volunteered to help once we get access from Gene Fleeman.
7. Tree city USA—JJ will file annual report. Looks like report is due in early 2025? (Pam will assist with identifying activities) Cindy created a folder with 2024 tree city activities.
8. Gift Tree program—Pam will assist residents as needed.
9. Recycling events—once a year. Agnesanne will take lead.
10. Green Schools: Karen Whitehair is the lead.
11. Bee City (Xerces Society)—Mark Carney to take lead. JJ will file report. This is an annual report due in early 2025 for 2024 activities.
Mayor's Monarch Pledge—does this have a separate reporting requirement?
12. Heritage Day—Outreach committee takes the lead.
13. Tree trails at Wiles Branch park and Cone Branch trail —Pam, Lexi, and Bill
14. Annual tree giveaway and town tree plantings/ Arbor Day celebration—Ann and Karen will co-lead
15. Budget oversight: Kevin
16. Promote use of rain barrels and composting bins: Social media campaign/Ann and Josh
17. SilvoCulture grant application/Harris property proposal. Kevin takes the lead
18. Sustainable Middletown designation (2025 renewal. Report due by 6/30/25. Pam will assist JJ in identifying accomplishments done since 2022.
19. Social media—increase use of Facebook; add Instagram/Tik tok/Blue Sky? Possibly get Josh to take lead with Ann.

Other goals/needs once we know our activities:

Increase volunteers for the team

Create partnerships with local businesses, churches—church green teams?