

Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 19th in person and via Lifesize

Time: 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Cindy Unangst, Ann Payne, Gene Fleeman, Kristin King, Pam McDonald, Bill Spare.

Meeting Minutes:

1. June meeting minutes approved.
2. Green Lecture series with library (Ann) – July 23rd Mosquito Control talk with Dr. Leisnham 11:30am. Outreach—has been announced on the town listserve, in FNP as a press release, and on Facebook. No town officials available for introduction—Ann agreed to do it. We will record the green talk with video and audio and slides—Gene reported that Jessica offered to help integrate the slides and audio. We will let the audience know that we are recording the session and Q&A. Ann let us know that Karen did a press release and let the naturalists know that the session will be recorded—Unfortunately, this may affect in-person attendance. (Unfortunately this event had to be canceled as the speaker tested positive for Covid.)
3. Outreach sub-committee report (Kristin)— Kristin reported on the last Outreach team meeting. The committee discussed giving an HOA a ‘Green Award’ for sustainable practices. Cindy reported that Glenbrook, Middletown Glen, and Foxfield Senior Housing are our three HOAs in town and that Glenbrook golf course did join the Butterflies in the rough program. Kristin shared some ideas for upcoming Green Talks after the Mosquito talk on 7/23. The team also discussed ongoing outreach for current initiatives.
4. Website updates (Gene) – Gene has completed a terms and conditions disclaimer; connections page: New mosquito information page added by Gene. Gene has initiated an IPM page for the web site. Cindy reported she plans on IPM plan for action in the fall.
5. Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) recertification – application submitted June 29th; Cindy reported 370 points—30 short of silver designation. Cindy learned that she can add some other items from when the town had an energy audit and made some permanent upgrades in the town infrastructure. Cindy suggested a Fall Transplant sale that would also count towards the SMC.
6. Bee City USA – renewal application submitted end of February and Cindy has not heard an update from Bee City yet. The team will need to start working on IPM for next year’s submittal.
7. Pollinator demonstration gardens – Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle planting—Cindy showed photos of the eyebrow garden as of now and asked about possibility of transplanting some plants from our Memorial Park garden to this garden in addition to Edamarie’s suggestions. Pollinator garden care: Ann noticed that the black eyed Susans have some die-back. Pam will consult with Jame Dillon, native landscaper about the issue.
8. Compost project – bin site at Memorial Park—close to 3,000 pounds collected to date. Compost bins available for purchase at municipal center.
9. Lunch Out Of Landfills – Ann Pond, Erin and Cindy will be meeting over the summer— Schools reopen on August 17 this year. Cindy reported they will be meeting soon to discuss the plans for the school year.

10. Tree plantings – tree planting maintenance schedule (see below); Keep Maryland Beautiful grant application for EarthPlanter trees was awarded – check out the planter trees along Main Street; Ben Fritton tree planting offer stands—need to follow up; Cindy is applying for tree planting grants for the fall—submitted for Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee—new program \$5,000. In conjunction with MDOT for state roads; also applied for the \$1,000 grant, in case the \$5,000 grant does not come through. Trees will come from Clear Ridge—125 trees requested. Friday, October 21st (schools are out) for tree planting day, if we get the grant. Places to plant trees include the walking path area, stormwater management basins, if we get permission. Two Basins: One at corner of Coblenz and Foxfield Pass and the other at Coblenz and Smithfield. Layla and Hollow Road area was leased to a farmer by the town but is no longer being farmed and would be a good future option for reforestation.
11. Silviculture Grant opportunity-A demonstration garden of fruit and nut trees. Ann reported on this opportunity via the Frederick Multi Faith Climate Alliance. We would need to identify property for the garden. Layla Road and Hollow road area is a possibility as 8-10 acres of area are available.
12. Gift Tree Program – flyer boxes at Wiles Branch Park, Memorial Park and on Cone Branch Trail – please monitor as you frequent those areas. Pam reported she has refilled the Cone Branch Trail flyer box again.
13. Recycling event – during Bulk Trash Day on October 8th – metal, textiles, paint cans; MVB shredding event is October 1st so we will advertise as week-long event to residents.
14. Heritage Festival – Saturday, September 24th – we will have a table and share it with Kaia Wynne
15. August meeting date – third Tuesday – August 16th

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 & MMS 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 – willow tree and button bushes at thicket (Ann P.); along slope behind houses.

TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

July 15 (Friday) 10-11:30am– maple tree pruning at Remsberg Park?

November 8 (Tuesday) 10-11:30am – oak tree pruning at Remsberg Park?