

Memorandum

To: Middletown Sustainability Committee

From: Cindy Unangst, Staff Planner

Date: July 11, 2022

RE: **July Green Team meeting agenda for Tuesday, July 19th in person and via Lifesize**

Topic: July Sustainability Committee meeting
Time: July 19, 2022 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting link

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

Extension

12429552

Passcode

21769

Phone

United States:+1 (312) 584-2401

Meeting discussion items:

1. June meeting minutes approval
2. Green Lecture series with library (Ann) – July 23rd Mosquito Control talk with Dr. Leishnam 11:30am
3. Outreach sub-committee report
4. Website updates (Gene) – terms and conditions disclaimer; connections page;
5. SMC recertification – application submitted June 29th; Fall Transplant sale?
6. Bee City USA – renewal application submitted end of February; will need to start working on IPM for next year's submittal
7. Pollinator demonstration gardens – Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle planting; meadow planting at Remsberg Park; pollinator garden care and watering schedule; Cone Branch Pocket Park pollinator planting.
8. Compost project – bin site at Memorial Park; compost bins available for purchase at municipal center
9. Lunch Out Of Landfills – Ann, Erin and Cindy will be meeting over the summer
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; Cindy is applying for tree planting grants for the fall; Silviculture grant for fruit and nut trees (Ann);
11. Tree trail on Cone Branch – Bethany, forestry board member, joined us to help with tree id; still stumped on exact species of chestnut and hickory.

12. Tree City USA – no new update
13. Gift Tree Program – flyer boxes at Wiles Branch Park, Memorial Park and on Cone Branch Trail – please monitor as you frequent those areas
14. 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;
15. Rain barrels – Frederick County Career & Technology Transitional Skills class project?
16. Potomac Watershed Stakeholder meeting – July 21st 12pm – 8pm at Hood College’s Whitaker Center
17. Heritage Festival – Saturday, September 24th – we will have a table and share it with Kaia Wynne
18. 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?

SUSTAINABILITY MEETING MINUTES JUNE 21, 2022

Attending: Cindy Unangst, Kristen King, Mark Carney, Gene Fleeman, Ann Payne, Bill Spare, Agnesanne Danehey, Erin Carney.

Minutes were approved as submitted.

MOSQUITO PROGRAM: Our upcoming mosquito program has been advertised several times on various platforms including the list serve, Facebook, Master Naturalists, etc. Gene will create a webpage for mosquito education that will be at the top level on our web page. We agreed to be at the library at 11am on 06/25. Cindy will bring a sign-in sheet and Karen's handout. Ann will have the Paper Mache mosquito there. We wonder, in response to several requests, how we might record the talk. Bernadette, Bill's wife, might have experience with this. We might record or also post on Facebook Live. Ann will ask Waneta about the library's recording capabilities.

Integrated Pest Management will be put on the webpage in its own new category. Leisnham's talk will be under Pollinator Conservation on the web page.

PROMOTING OTHER PAGES: An editor at Happy DIY Home found our Natural Landscaping section. Noting our UMD Lawn Alternative, she suggested we post her page on mulch alternatives. An Alternatives to Roundup page reached out to us as well.

It was decided we need a terms and conditions disclaimer. We do not seek pages but will respond when a page is suggested. It was decided that we stick with educational/research sources like Fish and Wildlife, universities, etc. We need to check with the town to see if they have a policy.

Outreach will design a disclaimer saying we do not seek outside sources. Outreach will design a friendly statement responding to offers. We will also design an email statement for those who reach out to us on the list serve. Gene will create a Connections page of those organization with whom we want to link.

We previewed Gene's Expo photos and page design. (Wow! Impressive!)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND: Cindy has dedicated an enormous amount of time renewing our certification. There is a new level of certification. We need 150 points but based on our work we *almost* reach 400 points for the highest (Silver) level. Next year! In addition to the points there are additional requirements. All of the checkpoints have been met. It is important to add documentation as an inspiration for other municipalities. Our recertification renewal is due June 30. It was suggested we post the certification on Basecamp.

POLLINATOR GARDENING: The Memorial Park Pollinator Garden looks amazing with much pollinator activity. Should we show the 60 minutes film "My Garden of 1000 Bees" at the Library? We will ask Waneta. A Citizen Science project similar to the one at Blande VA Arboretum would ask observers to report new bee species (not identified on an ID plaque).

Eyebrow and Circle plantings will be discussed next month. Additional pollinator plantings were discussed. Cone Branch Pocket Park could host pollinator plants, as well as plantings at the intersection of the two streets.

As insects cannot expend enough energy to 'shop around' for nectar, pollen and nesting materials, we might consider contiguous 'pollinator paths' along our walkways. A pollinator trail could run from Remsberg Park clear into the County Park. Pollinator plants can also be planted on open land such as storm water management facilities.

COMPOST BIN: We composted almost 600 pounds in May. The Compost bin was stolen about a month ago. Phil Wescott added a bike lock to the replacement. Erin reports that composting for 14 schools is being promoted as well as refrigerators for cooling the leftover foods that can be given to local food banks. Ann Pond, Erin and Cindy will meet about food recovery next month. We need to be sure we aren't overwhelming the Food Bank.

TREES: Ten earth planters with trees are going up next week along Main Street. There was an insufficient survival rate in the FRO area off Layla, so 100 more trees were planted. (Bear scat was spotted near this planting!) Grass clippings and other detritus are being dumped over the edge beyond the trees on the Active Adults pathway. Cindy will contact the HOA.

The canopy estimate needs to be done. Ben Friton is working on it.

A resident emailed us about this situation: In Glenbrook more than a decade ago, the builder planted two birch trees to control erosion on the back of a property. Birch trees are not on the HOA's 'approved' list. A neighbor wants the trees removed because they block her view of the golf course. We question the unnecessary removal of these established trees. The Loraxers (Tree Committee) will draft a letter to the HOA. Our committee needs to know which tree species HOAs approve for planting.

OCTOBER 8 RECYCLING/BULK TRASH DAY: The Metal collector and the Textile Truck Textiles are booked. MVB booked the Shredding truck for a week prior. To include this, we can advertise this as a week-long event. The paint lady wants \$300 in advance plus \$5 per can to pay her staff.

HERITAGE DAY: We have a table at Heritage Day on September 24. Please plan to sit with us. The Monarch Girl Scout wants a table for her seed packets and brochure. We agreed that we can share our table with her.

Outreach Committee Actions Items (14) for 2022

(updated 7/6/22)

Green Team Goal 1: *Preserve and increase the tree canopy*

Activity A: Gift Tree Program

- ✓ ~~Action item A1: Create a marketing calendar (Karen)~~
- Action item A2: Gift Tree message template for social media (Ann)
- ✓ ~~Action Item A3: Design and print a Gift Tree brochure (Pam)~~
- Action Item A4: Outreach to churches and community (added 7/6/22)

Activity B: Free Tree Initiative

- ✓ ~~Action Item B1: Advertise Free Tree initiative through Water Bill; Facebook, Website, email communications to HOAs (Cindy)~~
- Action Item B2: Contact Robin of Middletown Magazine--article about tree planting. (Cindy) May 2022
- Action Item B3: Create social media campaign to get residents who received free trees to post progress on social media and share with Green Team Facebook/Instagram. (Erin—April-Dec 2022?)

Green Team Goal 2: *promote recycling and composting*

Activity A: Community composting initiative (start March 2022)

- Action Item A1: Tic Toc/ You Tube videos promoting composting (Agnesanne -- end of March?)
- ✓ ~~Action Item A2: Janet Fox flyers in school backpacks (leader? mid-March)~~
- ✓ ~~Action Item A3: Ribbon Cutting Green Expo promoting composting site (Ann & team—April 23)~~
- ✓ ~~Action Item A4: Composting flyer inserted into town water bill. (Cindy January for insert in April mailing)~~

Activity B: Lunch out of Landfills --composting in schools

- Action Item B1: Promote LL through media (Erin, with Joe Richardson)

Activity C: Green Talks

- Action item C1: Promote talks through xxx (Leader?)

Green Team Goal 3: *Protection of pollinators*

- **Action Item 1:** Increase educational outreach through xxx media. (Pam et al—needs discussion to solidify specific strategies)
- **Action Item 2:** Distribute packets milkweed seeds (Erin and Cindy?)