

**APPROVED - MIDDLETOWN SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITTEE/GREEN TEAM
Minutes - June 20, 2023**

Present: Cindy Unangst, Kevin Stottlemyer, Mark Carney, Bill Spare, Ann Payne, Sean O'Keefe, Agnesanne Danehey, Kristin King

May Minutes were approved.

Our meeting was covered by the Frederick News Post today.

GREEN TALKS at the Library continue. The most recent was Sara Gibson of Frederick Beekeepers. On July 15 at 1pm, U of MD's Dr. Paul Leisnham will speak on how to reduce our mosquito population. A tomato expert will speak on June 24th at 2pm. The Reed Center visit was postponed until next week.

OUTREACH: The Outreach Subcommittee will begin working on the fall Harvest Festival program later in the season.

FOXFIELD PLANTINGS: The town is generously watering the Foxfield eyebrow and circle plantings three times a week. Cindy is speaking to the HOA next week to recruit some maintenance help with establishing the plants until they have matured enough to shade out competitors. Gift cards were purchased for the two workers who helped Edamarie install the plants.

COMPOST BINS/RAIN BARRELS: We have four compost bins left from our last order. There was a lively discussion in which we agreed that we prefer to work with FredCo Energy and Environments Program. Products will cost slightly more for purchasers but will still be very discounted and can be ordered online for pick up. Sales will begin in August/September for later pickup. By coordinating rain barrel and compost bin purchases at the county level, we will no longer struggle to purchase and sell these items. It was suggested the

FredCo E&E program could function as a resource supplier for local Green Teams. They might wholesale purchase trees, pollinator plants, educational materials and more for us.

TREE CITY GROWTH AWARDS: Cindy wants to be proactive in our application for this award by including our tree survival inventory, young tree training by removal of tubes and poles.

The town is hoping to purchase 28 floodplain acres for additional parkland and tree planting. Anna Twigg of DNR is helping with Healthy Forests, Healthy Waters grant to plant trees near the Hollow Road water tank, including three years maintenance (we provide the next five).

SOLAR PANELS: The Town Administrator has applied for a technical assistance grant with MEA for design and feasibility study to install solar panels around the water tank.

PATHWAYS: We agreed to address Parks and Rec to request extended pathways from Foxfield to the new plantings. It was also suggested we create an expanded brochure about and inventory of our park trees.

GIFT TREE QR CODES: Mark created attractive Gift Tree QR code pieces that have been put on the existing three boxes in the parks. More are available to adhere to plexiglass sheets to existing posts in Foxfield and elsewhere. His design is stored on Basecamp.

A MIDDLETOWN GLEN resident and his wife contacted us for advice about three of the six bioswale filtration plantings in MG which they felt were not adequate. It was agreed that, as the HOA is responsible for bioswale maintenance and the county inspects/approves stormwater entities, that we should point this family to those organizations for resolution of their concerns.

PLASTIC FILM: The TREX plastic film recycling program at MES continues, having collected 562 pounds of plastic film this past year.

We considered possibilities, such as acquiring a bailer to make huge bales of plastic film, but, ultimately, we decided this might be something the county should consider. We prefer to take our plastic film to the school.

RECYCLING: Cindy is inquiring into recycling organizations who show up for the Boonsboro fair each year. We agreed to get a Recycle My Battery collection bin for the town hall. Once the bin is full, it will be picked up and shipped free to the organization. We could promote as “Bring your batteries and pick up your yard bags.” Each battery is placed in an electrostatic plastic bag (not appealing to all). We may talk to schools or the new library to pick up this program.

Our next drive-through recycling event will be held Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9-noon.

NIGHT SKY COMPLIANCE: There is interest in pursuing a night sky ordinance for the town. The new development next to Safeway will have low level lighting. The Memorial Hall apartment’s lighting did not follow lighting placement guidance, which must be redone.

NEXT MEETING: July 18, 5 pm.