

Memorandum

To: Middletown Sustainability Committee

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

Date: March 13, 2025

RE: March Sustainability Committee meeting - Tuesday, March 18th @ 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. Discuss focusing our objectives and goals to projects that will help drive sustainability efforts within Town Limits.
2. Arbor Day Event on Friday April 25th starting at 1:00 PM
3. Bee City Certification Update
4. Bird City Certification Update
5. Tree Trails - Bat Box Utilization Update
6. Update on Volunteer's for Committee Projects
7. Green Lecture Series Update
8. Website access from Gene (have we gained access to the website yet?)
9. Discuss Ag. Day event at the High School
10. Next meeting date-third Tuesday- April 15th.

Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025

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

In attendance: Kevin Stottlemyer, JJ Hartner, Ann Payne, Pam McDonald, Lexi Sassi, Bill Steigelman, Gary Madonna, Agnesanne Danehey, Jamie Moore, Bill Spare, Sean O'Keefe, Lexi Sassi.

Meeting minutes:

1. January meeting minutes approved.
2. Gary Madonna joined the meeting and would like to be a member. Gary has volunteered for the town in the past, creating the Wiles Branch Tree Trail. Gary introduced himself and said he lives next to the Wiles Branch Park and walks the park every day. He is retired and worked as a biologist and scientist.
3. Bat boxes: We still need to know if bats are using the current bat boxes along the Cone Branch Trail.
4. Harris Property and other Middletown news: The Harris property is being annexed by the town. Kevin reported that he is bringing more town business to the sustainability meeting so that we can be aware of sustainability issues and opportunities. There is a pending grant with SilvoCulture for planting a food forest of nut and fruit trees on the annexed Harris property that should be decided by the summer of 2025.
5. Green Schools/Lucy School Spring Green and Clean event on April 25. The Lucy School has requested the Green Team's help with their event where they will be planting a rain garden. It seems that they would like our technical assistance with the rain barrels and garden design. April 25 is the same as our Arbor Day event—we will see if we can provide support in advance.
6. Town Park's Security Project: The town will be adding cameras to parks in town. It is possible that the cameras might include the Memorial Park pollinator garden.
7. Outreach Committee: Kevin reported on the sustainability committee hosting a Green Drinks social event where we could invite potential partners and others that might be interested in the mission of the Sustainability committee. The committee discussed options on the event. The outreach committee agreed to meet and develop a strategy and plan for the event that we would like to hold in the spring.
8. Native Trees and Middletown: Kevin sought input from the committee regarding the biodiversity of trees and plants to be planted in the town moving forward. The city of Frederick is now planting 25% non-native trees in town. Pam and Ann suggested contacting an expert such as entomologist Doug Tallamy or the Maryland Forestry Board. JJ shared Howard County website that has recommendations for tree plantings that does include non-

natives. JJ will be working on landscape ordinances for the town in the future. Pam noted that the City of Frederick has a tree list, too. Pam will share with the committee.

9. Sustainability Committee Facebook Page: There will be a new email address for a new FaceBook page for our committee. This new page will be supported by the town and 2-3 members of the committee will be able to post on the page. No comments for posts will be allowed.
10. Bee City—Mark Carney is willing to chair this committee and there is a report due by February 28, 2025. Mark is taking care of payment for the annual dues for Bee City and will take the lead on the Bee City report.
11. Next meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 4 p.m. at the Town Hall or by virtual connection to the Lifesize link.