

APPROVED March Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

In attendance In-person and via Lifesize: Cindy Unangst, Kevin Stottlemeyer, Bill Spare, Pam McDonald, Kristin King, Lexi Sassi, Mark Carney, Ann Payne, Gene Fleeman, Sean O'Keefe

Meeting minutes:

1. February meeting minutes approved.
2. Welcomed new team member, Lexi Sassi, who has already been volunteering with Bill Spare doing tree maintenance work. Lexi is also President of The Friends of the Library. Welcome Lexi!
3. Green Lecture series with library – Karen Whitehair program – Why Pollinator Gardens Matter – another huge turnout: 29 people attended. Gene and Pam recorded the talk and Gene will post it on our You Tube channel and website. Next up: Anna Twigg with DNR to talk about the 5M Trees initiative – Thurs., April 20th at 6:30pm—please note the different date than the usual Saturday Green Talks.
4. Little Seed Library – Kick-off for the 2023 Gardening series – Saturday, March 25th @ 10:30am – Seed Saving & Starting Seeds Indoors. Cindy plans to attend. We have been posting the events on our website to help spread the word.
5. Outreach sub-committee report – Door hangers advertising Green Expo and Arbor Day events. Pam and Cindy will distribute door hangers to be delivered door to door by green team members, Girl Scouts, and possible the Boy Scouts (Lexi will check and ask at their meeting on Wednesday). Plan is to get all door hangers delivered by April 9. Pam has listed the neighborhood/streets needing coverage and team members can sign up on BaseCamp. School no idle zone letter—Kristin reported that she has received an apathetic response from the letter she drafted to all Middletown school principals. The group discussed the importance of finding champions within the schools. Lexi volunteered to ask the middle school environmental program students if they are interested in championing the cause. One idea is to create a flyer for students to hand out educating parents about the harm of idling their cars while waiting at school.
6. Green Expo – Saturday, April 22nd – 10am – 2pm – good response so far. Kevin reported that Dempsey's Grill was interested in setting up a food table at the expo. There is a new owner of Dempsey's and they looking for exposure in the community. Janet Fox did a "save the date" flyer for Green Expo and a flyer will go out in the April water bills for the town. Cindy has created a sign-up list for volunteers the day of the expo and will post on BaseCamp. The Potomac Edison tree pick up is also the day of Green Expo behind the bank from 9-12. Mark Carney will be managing the tree pick up. Cindy is working out details to see if we will also offer electronics recycling behind the bank at the same time.
7. Pollinator demonstration gardens – Memorial Park garden plant theft replanting—Edamarie has committed to replace and plant them; Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle planting – plants have been ordered. Cindy has coordinated with Foxfield for planting of some annuals that were already ordered. Edamarie said St. John's Wort can be cut down and back and the annuals would work well to fill in spaces with new plantings. Volunteers will meet Saturday, May 6th beginning at 8am to plant the new gardens at Foxfield.
8. Pollinator garden care schedule on Sign Up Genius—need volunteers to sign up throughout the season. Ann will add it to BaseCamp and send out a reminder email. Committee to think of a way to acknowledge Edamarie's contributions to the pollinator gardens. Team discussed getting more volunteers for Green Team events and activities from sign up lists from our events and Green Talks. Gene is willing to enter them into the Wix email program associated with our Web site.

GIFT TREE 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 – 5 sold					
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

TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

- March 14 (Tuesday) 12:30-2pm – FRO area at Wiles Branch Park**
- March 17 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area at Wiles Branch Park**
- March 21 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – inventory FRO area at Alt40/Knoll Side Lane**
- March 22 (Wednesday) 2-3:30pm – inventory FRO area at Alt 40/ Knoll Side Lane**
- March 24 (Friday) 9-10:30am – inventory FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane**
- March 28 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – check out shrubs at Cone Branch Pocket Park**