

DRAFT 03 24 2026 Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Time: 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. In-person. Lifesize was also available

In attendance: Pam McDonald, Kevin Stottlemeyer, JJ Hartner, Lexi Sassi, Ann Payne, Hannah Gray, Emily Bomgardner joined via. Lifesize to report on the Green Expo, Agnesanne Danehey.

Meeting Discussion Items:

1. February meeting minutes approved.
2. Pollinator Seed Library at Middletown Library seems to be OK for now. Pam and Lexi have checked in on the seeds and Lexi created individual packets for residents to take. Pam added Black Eyed Susan seeds (18 packets).
3. Library Green Expo is Saturday, March 28 from 10-2. Emily reported she needs some more cones—does the town have some to share? Kevin will check this out. The Expo will have twenty or so vendors, coffee cart, food truck, animal presentation, all shred truck. Emily will have areas for the tables to be set up but not identified for vendors. JJ will bring the committee's Green Expo signs to the library on Wednesday. We need to bring our own table and chairs.
4. Bird City Certification. Agnesanne Danehey submitted our report for our Bird City renewal as a High Flyer. We will see if they accept all 20 items to have the elevated status. The team discussed tracking our progress over the next two years so that we have the data for the renewal. Agnesanne sent bill for \$200 renewal fee to Annette at town hall. We need to verify that the bill has been paid.
5. Bee City USA Certification. Due by May 31st. We need to identify someone to take the lead on the report. Mark Carney has not responded to the request to do it—he submitted it last time.
6. Gift Tree Grove: Two trees were moved within the grove because of the town road and sewer project on Linden Blvd. Those two trees seemed to have disease and the town maintenance is watching them. One other tree died and we need to replace it. Pam will identify the owners of the trees and send them a letter to let them know the status and the offer to replace the dead tree.
7. New visitor to our meeting: Hannah Gray, from Glenbrook, attended the meeting and discussed her HOA and wanting to form a green team for her community. She sought information about native gardening and wanted to know about integrated pest management for the town. She reported that her HOA is spraying the development but does not know what they are using. She plans to attend her HOA meeting and learn more and introduce the idea of a green team. The committee shared resources with her and invited her to come to our monthly meetings.
8. St. Thomas Moore & Senior Center Raised Plant Bed Partnership. Ann discussed the status: the school has decided it is best to plant the garden in the fall so the students contribute and can track the progress of the garden through the school year. The senior center has not had time to identify the volunteers to care for the pollinator garden. They will install the raised vegetable bed this spring and seniors will be responsible for caring for that garden.
9. Arbor Day Tree Planting / Resident Tree Give Away. New person from Potomac Edison is heading the tree program and will coordinate with Kevin. Will be held Friday, April 24 at 1 p.m.

10. Silviculture Tree Planting at the Burnt Bridge Park. The tree planting has begun for the food forest. Ben Friton is managing the planting and is adding additional trees (willows and fruit shrubs) to the banks of the stream to protect the banks from washout. The food forest will include some apple and cherry trees, that while not native, are a great food source for animals and humans.
11. New signs for Compost Bin at Memorial Park. Kevin needs to order the signs and will do so before the next meeting.
12. Facebook Posts: Ann Payne is maintaining our presence online and is happy to receive postings on sustainability, native gardening, etc. to post on our page. Please forward relevant postings to her.
13. Next Meeting: Tuesday April 21st 4:00 PM.