

Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022, in person and via Lifesize

Time: 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

In Attendance: Cindy Unangst, Ann Payne, Kevin Stottlemeyer, Pam McDonald, Bill Spare, Adam Stanzione, Sean O'Keefe

Meeting Minutes:

1. July meeting minutes approved with one edit.
2. Green Lecture series with library (Ann) – Mosquito Control talk with Dr. Leisnham to be rescheduled; The team discussed the fall/winter schedule for other talks. Here is a list of upcoming and potential Green Talks to be held at the Middletown Library:
 - October 29 at 1:00pm - Kathy Brown from the Frederick Bird Club will be giving a presentation about birds in peril: “Man vs Birds”
 - November - Ann to talk about the 'Tempestry' project and a call to climate change action with inspiring ideas that anyone can do.
 - December - MD Extension showing how to use local wild greenery for centerpieces for the holidays.
 - January or February - Barb Trader or Kathleen Rall of the Multi Faith Climate Alliance to talk about “Electrifying Everything.”
 - March - Possible IPM Green Talk—Ann is looking for speaker for this to address “backyard IPM”
 - April - Ellen West, Master Gardener talking about Baywise
 - May - Dr. Leisnham for Mosquito Control talk for residents
3. Outreach sub-committee report. The subcommittee has not met over the summer. Pam and Ann met to create a Green Team banner for use at our information table at events.
4. Website updates (Gene) – Gene continues to work on edits for the terms and conditions disclaimer; connections page.
5. SMC recertification – application submitted June 29. Cindy was able to resubmit the town’s application with additional points (405 total) to reach the silver designation. The Sustainability awards ceremony will be held on October 11. Team members may attend if they want to.
6. Bee City USA – need to start working on IPM for next year’s submittal. The team still needs to address this item.
7. Pollinator demonstration gardens – Ann reported that the pollinator garden care is proceeding well. The garden is well maintained and the plants that had been dying back are stable.
8. Compost project – bin site at Memorial Park; compost bins available for purchase at municipal center

9. Lunch Out Of Landfills – Ann Pond, Erin and Cindy had not been able to meet yet as of this meeting—they have a meeting planned for Saturday, August 20. Every class at the elementary school are participating and it is believed that the 6th and 7th graders will also have a program.
10. Tree plantings – tree planting maintenance schedule (see below); Cindy reported that she applied for the \$1K and \$5K grants from MUCFC for fall tree planting. She reported that there was a misunderstanding and Middletown did not get the grants. However, after this meeting, Cindy was contacted again and told that the town would receive the \$5K grant! A Silviculture grant was submitted for fruit and nut trees (Ann).
11. Tree trails – Gary Madonna is adding two more native tree species to the Wiles Branch tree trail—White Ash and Black Willow.
12. Tree City USA – Cindy reported that she will be planning the action items for this over the winter.
13. Gift Tree Program – Flyers continue to be taken from the flyer boxes at Wiles Branch Park, Memorial Park and on Cone Branch Trail, however Cindy has not received new order for gift trees. Ann and Pam brought up some new ideas to formalize the Memorial Tree planting area along the Cone Branch Trail. It was discussed whether we could add paths, other plantings, and a sign to designate the area as a memorial park for residents.
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. Cindy shared a draft copy of the marketing handout about the recycling events and took comments from the team. The team discussed the best location for the October 8 event—it was decided to hold it in the municipal parking lot from 8-11 a.m.
15. Rain barrels – Frederick County Career & Technology Transitional Skills class project. No new information about the possibility of getting rain barrels.
16. Heritage Festival – Saturday, September 24th – we will have a table and share it with Kaia Wynne. Cindy shared the sign-up list for Green Team table and let the team know that she will need to leave in the afternoon.
17. September meeting date – third Tuesday – September 20th

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					