

Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Time: Nov 16, 2021 5:00- 6 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Present: Cindy Unangst, Agnesanne Danehey, Kris Colby, Edamarie Mattei, Kevin Stottlemyer, Gene Fleeman, Pam McDonald, Mark Carney, Bill Spare, John Lain, Ann Payne, Kristen King, Erin Carney, Karen Whitehair, Sean O'Keefe.

Meeting discussion items:

1. New member introductions: Karen Whitehair—currently doing Master Naturalist program; Kristen King—professor of literature and writing, business communication, and leadership.
2. October meeting minutes approved pending a couple of edits
3. Mayors Monarch Pledge – Girl Scout Gold Award project update: Cindy reported that the Girl Scout is working on research for web site. She will be providing seed packets for residents and businesses.
4. Boy Scout pocket park project on West Green Street: New pocket park will be called Knight's Park and will be a memorial park for Clare. Planted native trees— a Dogwood was planted too close to shed and will be moved; American Hollies planted; park benches donated; and some information kiosks.
5. BASECAMP projects:
 - a. Pollinator demonstration gardens – spring-blooming bulbs (alliums) added by Pam and Ann. Edging to be done by the town—Cindy will get info to town administrator to get project scheduled and installed.
 - Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle soil analysis and planting—Soil analysis to Kris Colby—he will give recommendations this winter.
 - Memorial pollinator garden care schedule—Pam will write up and share.
 - Cone Branch Pocket Park pollinator garden suggestion by Burgess Miller—plant in the spring? Wet and more shade loving area—plants TBD.
 - Golf course manager saved milk weed seed from the course and will have them for the town to distribute. Plan to distribute during Christmas in the Valley on 12/4. We would need to package the seeds and write up planting instructions. Discussed areas in Middletown to plant some seeds.
 - Compost project—bin site in Elm Street parking lot. Kevin updated plans. We cannot use Elm St. location and instead we will use Memorial Park next to existing dumpster with a 90-day trial. The town board has approved this to begin in the spring.
 - Lunch Out Of Landfills—Erin reported we should not wait for lunch out of landfills to start the compost project. Waiting to hear start date for LOOL.
 - Website updates, ideas ('green homes', climate change). Gene continues to add content and get feedback for new entries on greenmiddletown.com website.
6. Tree plantings – Potomac Edison program for next spring—flyer will go out in January—get info by 12/10. 200 trees total to residents—2 trees/per family; Will use Boonsboro tree program website as a model for Middletown and Gene will create and post on the Green Team website. If participating residents are willing, we will recognize them on our website and Facebook page.
7. Tree planting maintenance schedule (see below); help needed with tree in Foxfield FRO area brought to attention by a resident to the town. Green team could send someone to check it out and see degree of need. Cindy could use help—bring clippers.

8. Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant—Applied for \$2,000 for trees for EarthPlanters on Main St.
9. Gift Tree Program – sites to install flyer boxes (3 were ordered). Boxes will be installed on existing posts at Memorial Park, Cone Branch trail at Linden Blvd., and Wiles Branch park parking area.
10. Green Expo 2022 – potential date of Saturday, April 23rd (Friday, April 22nd is Earth Day). To be held at Memorial park again so can showcase Pollinator Garden and Compost drop off site.
11. Middletown Glen—John, a homeowner in Middletown Glen, is trying to come up with master plan for Blue Bird trail, walking trail, micro-bioswales, pollinator gardens for his community. Environmental site design at Middletown Glen HOA land.
12. Ben Friton to grow out trees for Middletown. DNR sells trees very cheaply—\$1/each. Cindy will check on budget. Ben was not present at the meeting tonight-will need to follow up to be sure he will grow them.
13. New December meeting date – second Tuesday – December 14th

GOALS FOR 2021:

PLANT 100 TREES IN 2021 – 25 planted 4/30 (75 shrubs planted in 2021)					
CREATE A TREE GIFT PROGRAM - GOAL OF \$1000 –					
QUANTIFY/SHOW PROGRESS [MEASURABLE GOAL NEEDED] ON 25% CANOPY BY 2025					
HOLD VIRTUAL GREEN EXPO -					
SUPPORT MES LOOL PROGRAM - FINANCIAL/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					

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Green lectures series
- Habitat advisor volunteers

FUTURE PLANTING AREAS:

- North Pointe thicket (see Ann P.) – willow tree and button bushes

TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

December 7 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – Wiles Branch FRO area
December 17 (Friday) 10-11:30am – Wiles Branch FRO area
December 21 (Tuesday) time TBD – Wiles Branch FRO area

March 8 (Tuesday) 12:30-2pm – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane
March 15 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane

March 18 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area at Alt 40/Knoll Side Lane

April 5 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – North Pointe plantings

April 12 (Tuesday) 12:30-2pm – North Pointe plantings

May 10 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am - FRO area off Layla Drive

May 20 (Friday) 10-11:30am – FRO area off Layla Drive

June 3 (Friday) 10-11:30am – Wiles Branch dog park

June 7 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – Cone Branch pocket park

June 17 (Friday) 10-11:30am – Cone Branch pocket park