

Memorandum

To: Middletown Sustainability Committee

From: Kevin Stottlemyer, Chairperson, & JJ Hartner, Staff

Planner Date: November 19, 2024

RE: November Sustainability Committee meeting - Tuesday, November 19th 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. October meeting minutes approval
2. Reviewing upcoming year goals.
3. I do not see that we have any Green Talks scheduled for December.
4. Green Schools - Karen continues to reach out to Nick Sizemore and Sharon Steger about helping them with the high school application to become a Green School.
5. Tree trails - Labeling & inventory.
6. Outreach Committee update.
7. Update on Silviculture plantings.
8. Volunteers needed to help with counting and determining the survivability rate of Forest Conservation plantings at Middletown Park.
9. Next meeting date-third Tuesday- December 17th.

DRAFT Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: Tuesday, October 16, 2024

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 pm in person and via Lifesize

In attendance: Bill Steigelmann, Kevin Stottlemyer, JJ Hartner, Ann Payne, Agnesanne Danehey, Pam McDonald, Bill Spare, Lexi Sassi, Teresa Forsyth (Middletown resident), Sean O'Keefe

Meeting minutes:

1. September meeting minutes approved.
2. Increase volunteers to be on the Sustainability Committee. We have had volunteer sign up lists from past events but they have gone missing. We do have the list from Heritage Day and JJ will scan it for the committee and Agnesanne volunteered to reach out to the people who are interested. Pam agreed to schedule an Outreach Co. mtg. to draft the email and talk about strategy.
3. Green Lecture series with library – Bill Steigelmann discussed the Saturday Green talk and who will introduce the speaker. The October session will be on Green Schools in Frederick County. The team needs to start to plan for topics for 2025 and Bill Steigelmann, Ann Payne, and Agnesanne Danehey were interested in being on the committee.
4. Tree plantings – tree planting maintenance/inventory schedule (see below). JJ will continue to monitor the need for tree maintenance according to Cindy's recommendations.
5. SilvoCulture CEO walked the Harris property with JJ, Kevin, and Paul to discuss the Silvoculture grant opportunity. Middletown is annexing the Harris property into the town of Middletown. The town plans to make a walking trail, have a food forest, and use the buildings for maintenance/community use. Silvoculture will maintain the trees for 2 years. Kevin will present the plan to the town board. Silvoculture will plant a block of property with the fruit and nut trees and an additional trail of fruit/nut trees that will follow the Catocin Creek. Eventually the town will put in a trail about 30' from the creek. Mrs. Harris will retain ownership of land including the creek.
6. Karen is in conversation with the Middletown schools with the application processes for becoming Green Schools.
7. Tree trails – Pam discussed the inventory of needed tree tags to replace the missing ones on the Wiles Branch Trail Tree Trail. Lexi has not yet walked the trail but will get to it. We also need to order tags for the Cone Branch tree trail. Need to update QR code for Wiles Branch trail to go directly to the Story map. We need have some maintenance done around the trees. Gary Madonna has offered his assistance.
8. Recycling event – The next recycling event will be Saturday, October 19th . Will have the same set up as last year. JJ discussed engaging high school students that may be involved in environmental clubs. Which ones exist? Can the Sustainability committee work with the Middletown schools who decide to become Green Schools? The committee discussed ways to engage youth to be ambassadors for the Green Team to spread our key messages about sustainability projects and get local business sponsors.
9. Next meeting date – third Tuesday – November 19th

GOALS FOR 2024:

PLANT 100 TREES IN 2024 – 60 planted on 3/8; 75 planted on 4.26;

GIFT TREE PROGRAM - GOAL OF \$1000 – \$600 taken in to date

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Dark Sky policy

TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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- Late winter is best time to prune dogwood trees (Memorial tree grove and Remsberg Park)
- Late winter/early spring is best time to prune serviceberry trees at Remsberg Park
- Early spring is best time to prune redbud trees at Memorial Park and Remsberg Park
- May/June is best time to prune magnolia trees at Memorial Park and Memorial tree grove
- May – July is best time to prune sugar maples at Remsberg Park
- Late autumn is best time to prune black gum trees at Remsberg Park
- November – December is best time to prune white oaks at Remsberg Park

- 18. Heritage Day booth – Saturday, September 28th; we will need volunteers to man our booth. Our booth will be outside the Municipal Building—will check to see if we have WiFi.
- 19. Bottle return bill legislation (Kerri Hesley) Sierra Club Catoclin Group. Bottle Bill—5.5 billion beverage containers sold/year/person! Only about 25% are recycled—4 billion left in the environment or incinerated. With the passing of the Bottle Bill, a small refundable deposit is added to the price of beverages in glass, plastic and metal containers. 10 to 15 cents added to price and refunded when they are returned to a retailer or redemption facility for recycling. 10 states with bottle bills and 30 countries have bottle bills. Has a huge impact—up to 90% reduction in trash. Savings for local governments—for both trash and recycling. The Maryland Bottle Bill will be up for a vote in 2025. Please check out the Sierra Club’s website to find the link to support the bill.
- 20. Next meeting date – third Tuesday – October 15th

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QUANTIFY/SHOW PROGRESS ON 25% CANOPY BY 2025				
HOLD GREEN EXPO - ✓				
SUPPORT MES & MMS LOOL PROGRAM - VOLUNTEER SUPPORT -				
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2024 FALL RECYCLING EVENT SIGN-UP

Saturday, October 19th 9am - 12noon

Time		Number of Adult Volunteers Needed
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8:30am - 9:00am	Set-up	4
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Set-up signage and cones/barriers

9:00am - 10:30am	Direct traffic	5
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Direct folks into site

10:30-12:00noon	Direct traffic	5
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Direct folks into site

High school students?

Names

AGNESANNE DANHEP 8:30-10:00
Mark Crowley 8:30-9:30
Sean O'Keefe (8:30-11:00) (12pm)
 ↓ Bill Steigelmann (until about 11:30am)
 ↓

Lexi Sassi 240-687-3787
Ann Payne (Tentative)