

October Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Time: Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 5:00- 6:15 p.m.

In Attendance (in-person and virtual): Cindy Unangst, Pam McDonald, Ann Payne, Kevin Stottlemeyer, Erin Carney, Agnesanne Danehey, Bill Spare, Sean O'Keefe, Kristin King, Gene Fleeman.

Meeting minutes:

1. September meeting minutes approved with two edits.
2. Green Lecture series with library (Ann) – September program was about boosting immunity—Ann reported it was not well attended. Cindy shared the list from Waneta of upcoming lectures:
 - October 29th Saturday, Where Have all the Maryland Birds Gone? with Kathy Brown 1:00p.m.
 - November 16th Wednesday, Olive Oil 101 with Sharon Streb, from Olive and Basket 1:00 p.m.
 - December 17th Saturday, Decorating with Local Holiday Greenery, with Master Gardener Ellen West, 1:00 p.m.
 - January (Is there any way Barb and Kathleen could do their electric program here at the Library on January 21st instead of the 28th?) the program would be at 1:00 p.m. on the Saturday
 - February 22nd Wednesday, Safe Use of Supplements with Tea Tasting, Extension Services Joi Vogin, 1:00 p.m.
 - March (If no Tree program, I have other options)
 - April 29th Saturday, Bay Wise "Who Pollutes the Bay", with Ellen West, 1:00 p.m.
 - May 10th Wednesday, Nutrition to Support Good Mental Health, with Extension Services Joi Vogin, 1:00 p.m.
 - May 20th Saturday, Reducing Mosquito Populations, with Dr. Paul Leishnam, 1:00 p.m.
3. Outreach sub-committee report: The Outreach committee met to review and discuss the Heritage Festival booth and ways to improve its outreach in the future. Cindy reported the purpose of the booth has been for general information. The committee discussed ways to target information for festival attendees to attract more interest and be interactive. The Outreach committee also discussed the idea of creating seed libraries that could be housed at our town library. This project needs more research as to how to implement but it generated a lot of interest from the team.
4. Website updates (Gene) – terms and conditions disclaimer; connections page; Commissioner Falcinelli will review the document officially for the town—she will decide if the town attorney needs to review. Gene also explained about making the website ADA compliant—he is taking steps to do that with the features included in the website design software.
5. SMC recertification – award ceremony Oct. 11th in Annapolis; Middletown received the silver level award with 400 points. (Frederick City got the most points in the State—over 600 points. They have a sustainability manager and staff.) Cindy was able to attend the ceremony with Burgess Miller.
6. Green Expo – date for next year – proposing Saturday, April 22nd which is Earth Day. (Thurmont's is 4/15). Discussed contacting the Lucy School to help with Green Expo as the school is very environmentally oriented.
7. Partner with Potomac Edison for 2nd tree planting for Friday, April 28th—this is a half day for students. Cindy discussed whether we should do the planting in the afternoon so students could come from school. Offer lunch by having a food truck? Cindy will check into the feasibility of this. Let Honor Society and other groups know at high school in advance so they can plan on coming.
8. Bee City USA – need to start working on IPM for next year's submittal.
9. Mayor's Monarch Pledge – annual report due December 1st!; plan to talk to Kaia soon to see what she has accomplished towards the goals.

10. Pollinator demonstration gardens – Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle planting—have budget for this pollinator garden. Edamarie had some design ideas for this area; pollinator garden care and watering schedule—Garden care team has been excellent this year. Ann will send out sign up genius for 2023 for the pollinator garden. Pam and Ann will meet at the memorial park garden and assess the plants and any need for next year.
11. Discussed creating a Green Team scarecrow for the town scarecrow event next year. (Lucy School did an excellent scarecrow out of natural materials).
12. Compost project –Continue to have issues with people not closing the lid. Cindy created a sign to be attached to the sign next to the bin. Compost bins available for purchase at municipal center;
13. Lunch Out Of Landfills – Erin reported that there is not much food for food recovery as there is no longer a free lunch program in the schools. There is a food composting program happening. Quinn is keeping data at the Middletown middle school.
14. Tree plantings – tree planting maintenance schedule (see below); Ben Fritton tree planting offer; Cindy received \$4,200 grant for the fall tree planting; The tree planting will take place on Friday, Oct. 21: Location for trees will be along walking path of village of Foxfield— 104 holes dug. Volunteers will meet at pump station off of Layla for tree planting demonstration. Lion’s Club has offered to help again with the tree planting. The event will begin at 10 a.m.
15. Silviculture grant for fruit and nut trees (Ann);
16. Tree Survival Rates: Cindy reported that the Nov. 2019 tree planting along Middletown Parkway is at a 93% survival rate! Today Cindy inventoried tree survival rate from November 2020–66% survival rate for trees around North Pointe—difficult soil conditions and very steep.
17. Tree trails – Bethany, forestry board member, joined us to help with tree id on Cone Branch trail; still stumped on exact species of chestnut and hickory. New trees to add to the Wiles Branch tree trail – white ash and black willow.
18. Tree City USA – Cindy is working on actions to complete for next year’s Growth Award-due at end of the year.
19. Gift Tree Program – flyer boxes at Wiles Branch Park, Memorial Park and on Cone Branch Trail – please monitor as you frequent those areas; Loraxers to discuss revamping program. Concern for Cone Branch culvert project and impact on Memorial tree grove. Need to wait to see timing of project and impact on existing tree grove.
20. Recycling event – during Bulk Trash Day on October 8th 8am-11am– metal—a lot collected. Money from metals supports community nonprofits; textiles—huge amount of textiles collected, paint cans—over a ton collected! Event was a big success! Cindy discussed next year adding electronics recycling thru The Buddy Project-committed for next year. (The Buddy Project refurbishes computers for people with disabilities). Big thanks to Karen, Mark, Sean, Agnesanne, Bill and Ann for volunteering!! March 11, 2023 will be next bulk trash date and will be another recycling event. The team plans to offer recycling events twice a year in connection with bulk trash pickup dates.
21. Free share program? Sean mentioned possibility of offering a tool share program to residents. Could this be something the Green Team could do via social media? In partnership with metal recycling guy? This is a great idea that will need to be further discussed and researched on how best to implement.
22. Ann brought up working on reducing air pollution by addressing cars that idle and wait at the schools. Myersville had impact with kids putting flyers on cars. Ann would like to see us engage Middletown students to do the same.

- 23. Heritage Festival – follow-up discussion. Cindy discussed the possibility of changing the end time of booths at the festival. Attendance drops off after lunch.
- 24. November meeting date – third Tuesday – November 15th

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					

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Habitat advisor volunteers

FUTURE PLANTING AREAS:

- North Pointe – willow tree and button bushes at thicket (Ann P.); along slope behind houses.

TREE PLANTING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

October 18 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – inventory planted trees in North Pointe subdivision

November 1 (Tuesday) 9-10:30am – inventory planted trees on Boileau Ct and Wiles Branch Park

November 8 (Tuesday) 10-11:30am – inventory trees/shrubs at Cone Branch Pocket Park

November 18 (Friday) 10-11:30am – oak tree pruning at Remsberg Park?