

Memorandum

To: Middletown Sustainability Committee

From: Cindy Unangst, Staff Planner

Date: September 9, 2024

RE: September Sustainability Committee meeting - Tuesday, September 17th 5:00pm in person and via Lifesize

Meeting link

<https://call.lifesizecloud.com/12429552>

Passcode

21769

Phone

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Meeting discussion items:

1. Introduce our new planner JJ Hartner
2. August meeting minutes approval
3. Bird City designation – installation of chimney swift tower at Wiles Branch Park
4. Green Lecture series with library – unfortunately not a good turnout on August 17th for the Food Council of Frederick County talk; next up is a talk about Wildlife Corridors on September 21st with Karen Russell and Deb Portney; Bill Steigelmann will be there to introduce the speakers.
5. Outreach sub-committee report – they are preparing for the display and materials to be used for the Heritage Festival
6. Pollinator demonstration gardens – Memorial Park garden maintenance volunteer sign-up; Village of Foxfield eyebrow and circle planting – plants look great; the liriopie on the eyebrow was removed and we need to determine planting for that area; wildflower seeds were sown on the slope of the trail west of North Pointe Terrace but don't seem to have taken root.
7. Compost project – Community compost bin is still getting good use. February – 905 lbs.; March – 683 lbs.; April – 810 lbs.; May – 835 lbs.; June – 908 lbs.; July 554 lbs. (3 pickups); August – 918 lbs.
8. Tree plantings – tree planting maintenance/inventory schedule (see below);
9. Chesapeake Bay Trust grant – we were awarded \$2,000 for a plaque and educational materials in relation to the Wye Oak tree planted on East Green Street! Brochure was printed, and plaque arrived last week. Presentation about the Wye Oak tree took place at the library on July 20th. Once we know when the plaque is to be installed, we'll get notice out to the public for an unveiling.
10. Tree trails – Jim Roessler completed text for Cone Branch tree trail. New trees to add to Wiles Branch tree trail – white ash and black willow, and many of the tree tags there are missing. QR code issue as well. Need volunteers to move the tree trail projects forward.

11. Tree City USA – Both our Tree City and Growth Award applications were approved; only 15% of Tree City municipalities receive the Growth Award.
12. Gift Tree Program – Cindy talked to a woman who plans to have a tree planted for each of her four grandchildren this fall.
13. Recycling event – The next recycling event will be Saturday, October 19th after Cindy’s retirement. Bill Traub (metal recycling), Helpsy (textile recycling) and Yuck Old Paint have confirmed their attendance. Cindy will reach back out to Eric Zimmerman (electronics recycling). Lithium-ion batteries will also be collected.
14. Trex plastic bag collection – we can still take plastic bags to MES. Also, there are bins behind the Middle School for textiles as a fundraiser through Helpsy.
15. Battery recycling at the Municipal building – we can only take in lithium-ion batteries at this time.
16. 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.
17. Bee City – Pollinator Week was June 17-21st
18. Heritage Day booth – Saturday, September 28th; we will need volunteers to man our booth.
19. Bottle return bill legislation (Kerri Hensley)
20. Next meeting date – third Tuesday – October 15th

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

- 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

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