

September Middletown Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 20, 2022

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Cindy Unangst, Pam McDonald, Ann Payne, Kevin Stottlemyer, Mark Carney, Agnesanne Danehey, Gene Fleeman, Bill Spare

Meeting Minutes:

1. August meeting minutes approved
2. Green Lecture series with library – 10/29-Frederick Bird/Kathy Brown; Mosquito Control talk with Dr. Leisnham to be rescheduled-possibly 5/20/23. Other talks planned including one from Karen Whitehair!; IPM series—February, March-Karen Small Gardens, Big Impact. Will post the series on BaseCamp.
3. Cindy has also been talking to Katey Grogan about the Frederick County Green Talks: Other topics—Snake identification of non-venomous snakes and how to relocate them. Urbana has a master naturalist that is doing this talk for them.
4. Website updates (Gene) –Gene shared privacy statement for Green Middletown webpage—this needs to be reviewed by Middletown attorney to be sure it is correct and/or needs edits. Gene continues to add great new pages.
5. SMC recertification – application revisions submitted Sept. 16th; award ceremony Graduate Hotel in Annapolis, Oct. 11th in the a.m. Can have two other Green Team members attend with Cindy and Burgess Miller. We have been recertified as a Sustainable Maryland community at the Silver Level, scoring 400 points.
6. Bee City USA – need to start working on IPM for next year’s submittal. Mark reported that he and Cindy have met with Phil Hefner (assistant project manager for the town) to learn about what IPM has been done in the town in the past. Discussed IPM options: Some towns do not use any herbicides and pesticides. Some towns use chemicals judiciously. Middletown is not using herbicides on streets. We would like to know that we are not using any pesticides or herbicides in our parks. We will also seek to have any town contractors inform us of any herbicides or pesticides used—must be approved. We also discussed doing outreach to town businesses about best IPM practices.
7. Pollinator demonstration gardens – pollinator garden care: Discussed end of season review of the garden and cutting back some stems to allow homes for bees and leaving cuttings in the garden. Decided the garden does not need a watering schedule—native plants are established; Cone Branch Pocket Park pollinator planting next spring—Cindy showed park on monitor and indicated the areas that could be planted with pollinator plants. Would like a plan for next spring. Mark reported it is best to order plugs in January. Also, solar array area would be ideal for a demonstration garden.
8. Compost project – bin site at Memorial Park has a maggot issue. Can’t really be avoided according to Phil of Key City Compost—August is the toughest month. Sometimes the lid is left open, also it is close to dumpster and often that causes the fly problem. We discussed creating a new sign to let the community know to close the bin after each use.
9. Lunch Out Of Landfills – Cindy is not sure if the LOOL program has started at all yet. Or, if the food recovery program has not started this fall.

10. Tree plantings – tree planting maintenance schedule (see below); Ben Fritton has native trees ready to give us for the community to plant. We discussed options for offering trees to residents and decided the October tree planting event would be a good time. Cindy received \$4,200 grant for the fall tree planting—from M-DOT and Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee—tree planting day is planned for Friday, 10/21 and a flyer has been created. Trees include Red maples, Allegheny Serviceberry (7 gallon), Black Cherry, Sweet Gum to be planted at Foxfield. Frederick County Public Schools had a 2008 goal for 20% tree canopy—Cindy contacted the board to see if this goal has been tracked—it has not. Because Middletown schools are slated for construction in the next 10 years, the school board does not want to plant any trees at this time.
11. 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 Wiles Branch tree trail – white ash and black willow.
12. Tree City USA – Cindy is starting to look into actions to complete for next year’s Growth Award. Survival monitoring of trees planted in the last 5 years is a new action item Cindy would like to do for Tree City USA. She has a tree inventory schedule set up to do this action item.
13. Gift Tree Program – flyer boxes at Wiles Branch Park, Memorial Park and on Cone Branch Trail have been refilled. Ann discussed making the gift tree area more special, however, it is possible that a town construction project with the creek may interfere with our planned gift tree area. Cindy will research and get us information for next meeting.
14. Recycling event – during Bulk Trash Day on October 8th: 8am-11am– metal, textiles, paint cans collected in parking lot behind Municipal Center; volunteers are needed for this event—at least 4 to help direct traffic through the collection area; MVB shredding event is October 1st so we are advertising as week-long event to residents.
15. Heritage Festival – Saturday, September 24th – we are sharing table with Kaia Wynne; volunteers needed!!! We need to set up and have cars off of Main Street by 9 a.m.
16. Rain barrels – Frederick County Career & Technology Transitional Skills class project is not happening
17. October meeting date – third Tuesday – October 18th

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

November 8 (Tuesday) 10-11:30am – oak tree pruning at Remsberg Park?