

## Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2017

Attendees: Cindy Unangst, Mark Carney, Ann Payne, Jamie Moore, Sean O’Keeffe, Joyce Tuten, and Rick Dietrick

1. Meeting minutes – minutes from October were approved.

2. Green Expo

a. Date for next year: April 21, 2018.

Cindy reported E-end (a.k.a. “The Faithless”) has been booked elsewhere for 4/21. Possible solutions include getting a town truck or scout troop to help.

2019 date needs consideration; do not want to conflict with Boonsboro or Catoctin Creek Nature Center events. Cindy checked FCPS 2019 calendar and there is no school April 18 to 22, 2019.

b. Green awards categories: a printed announcement with nomination form and links to FB and town webpage will go out with January water bill, will also include calendar of Green Talks for 2018. Cindy reported one Green award nomination has already been received. We will need to obtain prizes (possibilities include donations from local businesses, sign for yard announcing award)

c. Suggestion to have 15 to 20 minute presentations during Green Expo in place of April’s Green Talk. Jamie recommended Cindy give a presentation about Importance of trees and distribute copies of MD DNR’s \$25 off coupons for homeowners to purchase and plant selected native trees. IPM is another potential topic—Ann was given name of potential speaker from a benevolent stranger while at library meeting earlier today.

3. Committee approved Cindy’s proposal that the next meeting for Sustainability Committee be moved up to December 13. The Green Talks schedule needs to be finalized by 12/15 in order to be included in the mailing with the January water bill.

4. 2018 Year of Sustainability – Cindy proposed to name them “Green Talks.” Cindy, Ann, and Jamie met with Waneta and Mary (the adult and children’s program coordinators at FCPL Middletown branch). They are excited about working with us and hosting several of the Green Talks at the Middletown Library. They would like to coordinate and develop additional programs relating to the Green Talk of the Month.

Dr. Tangren has agreed to be the speaker for January. Lisa Orr will give presentation on Green Tools, Incentives, and Programs. Nancy Lawson has also agreed to give a presentation. Ann is waiting for response from entomologist Lisa Kuder. Michael Judd has not yet responded. Joyce will give presentation on climate change in December.

Plan to publicize monthly Green Talk through flyer in January water bill. FCPL can also help get the word out through their printed and online calendars. Other publicity options were discussed, including notices in local newspapers, possible radio announcements, placing flyers in local businesses, churches, schools, county nature centers, and senior centers.

5. Pollinator resolution –Success!!! The resolution was approved with relish by the Town Board at the standing-room-only meeting on November 13.
6. Pollinator Meadow – Last class was on October 30 (seed sowing). Ann reported a cover crop of oats was sowed at meadow site to prevent erosion over the winter. Ann mentioned website [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org) has good information about pollinator-friendly plants. (Ann).
7. MEA Energy policies and resolutions: \$25K yearly grant to create energy conservation projects. Deadline extended to January 12. UMD graduate student has town's energy usage data, which will be used to generate baseline data for the grant application. Potential uses for grant: \$5K to install motion sensors for municipal buildings, possibility of town purchasing street lights from Potomac Edison and changing to LED bulbs. (Cindy).
8. Bike racks in parks: The Lions Club generously donated 3 bike racks. Will need to check if style of rack can be changed, as the type selected was deemed unacceptable by the county (although having some bike racks is better than having no bike racks...).
9. Tree canopy data was received, but will require work to interpret the data. This will be used as baseline data and to identify promising locations for future plantings.
10. Recycling notification bill: Fact Sheet was approved by the town board
11. Tree identification/labeling. Temporary identification tags were placed on 15 trees in Wiles Branch Park.
12. Donated bat houses were installed along Cone Branch trail
13. Sustainable Maryland leadership training seminar "Building Resilient Communities" will occur tomorrow in Hagerstown. Cindy will attend and present highlights at the December meeting.
14. Next meeting date: Wednesday, December 13, 2017