



## Meeting Notes for August 29, 2019 meeting @Mulberry House 5-6 PM

Attendees: Barbara Bonham, Mary Ellen O'Neill, Fred Isseks, Kirsten Gabrielsen

- Report on Night Out Against Crime:  
Barbara and Mary Ellen set up an informational table at the August 6 Night Out Against Crime event at Thrall Park. Unfortunately, due to stormy weather, the table had to be packed up early. Instead Barbara and Mary Ellen had the opportunity to network with the "Rainbow Girls", a group of young girls and women whose purpose is public service and leadership development. Collaboration with the group was discussed.
- Update on Arbor Day Celebration @ Davidge Park, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 11-1  
This will be a rain or shine event. Final program includes informational tables (Shade Tree Committee, Ask a Master Gardener, and the OC Audubon Society). In addition, Master Gardener, Kate Honders will provide information on proper pruning, timing and tools. A tree planting will take place as well. Light refreshments will be served and it was decided that we reach out to the Rainbow Girls to see if they'd like to volunteer at the event. Invitations will be sent to City officials and announcements will be posted on social media and in local newspapers.
- Brochure:  
Barbara shared copies of the finalized three-fold brochure. It looks great and has lots of important information for home owners and potential future volunteers.
- Volunteer Hours:  
Barbara asked that we begin to add up our volunteer hours spent on Shade Tree related work. The information on volunteer hours will be included in future Tree City and grant applications.
- Meeting with Mayor:  
It was agreed that the Shade Tree committee should soon meet with Mayor DeStefano to provide an update on the work done so far. Also, we need to discuss various issues that are of concern and that have impeded the committee's work. A mid-October meeting would be ideal and Barbara will work on getting this set up.
- Hillside Cemetery:  
Fred Isseks is on the board of the Hillside Cemetery Association. He was wondering if perhaps some collaboration could take place between them and the Shade Tree Committee. This will be discussed further but everyone was in favor as we are all interested in increasing the urban forest within the City of Middletown.

**NEXT MEETING:** The September 28<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day event at Davidge Park will serve as our Sept. meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Kirsten Gabrielsen