



Meeting Notes

Wednesday January 29, 2020 @ 5 Mulberry House Senior Center
62-70 West Main Street, Middletown, New York 10940 (downstairs)

Attendees: Barbara Bonham (Chair), Renee Stover, Mary Ellen O'Neill, Kate Honders, Fred Isseks, Kirsten Gabrielsen
Guests: Middletown HS Public Policy students: Alexandra Glebocki, Erin Bickerdyke, Sydney Magrane, Ashley Chavez.

Old Business

- Dana Herm & School District update: Barbara reported that she had not been able to get in touch with Dana Herm, the Middletown School District's Art Supervisor. The Committee is hoping that all 5th grade Middletown art students will be given the opportunity to participate in next year's Arbor Day poster contest. This year, a Maple Hill art teacher had 5th grade students enter posters in the contest.
- Identifying home owners for trees. Barbara discussed a Pound Ridge, NY program where homeowners had been offered trees to be planted on their properties. This program had been made possible via a \$20,000 grant.

You can sign-in and view a webinar on the software program for tree private homeowner tree giveaways here:
<https://www.arborday.org/programs/community-canopy/webinars/private-property-tree-distributions/replaylinks.cfm>

New Business

- Arbor Day Celebration for 2020: Discussion continues on the format of our 2020 Arbor Day celebration. If possible, the Committee would like to plant two native Pawpaw trees at the Maple Hill school.
- After school programming at the Parks: Parks Department is interested in offering after-school programs during the summer months. We discussed how 5th grade students might be able to work on an Arbor Day Poster for next year? Parks indicates that they would be willing to exhibit the posters at the parks department.
- Bank of America Grant: - Barbara shared information about BoA's Community Resilience Grant Program. The grant application is due on February 21, 2020 and would require quick action from the Committee. It was decided to meet on February 5th at SUNY Orange. Kirsten will reserve a room.
- Fourteenth Annual Tree City/Line/Campus U.S.A. Recognition Ceremony Thursday, March 19, 2020: Two Committee members are invited to go.

Open Forum

Barbara suggested we invite Andrew Reinmann, Ph.D., CUNY Advanced Science Research Center, Hunter College, Dept. of Geography to speak about urban forests and their important role in climate mediation and urban heat island mitigation. Discussion followed as to who should host and where. Possible venues include SUNY Orange and Middletown High School. Fred Isseks was also going to check the High School to see if they might also host a lecture.

NEXT MEETING:

*Wednesday February 26th @ 5:00 at the Mulberry House Senior Center 62-70 West Main Street, Middletown, New York.
We will meet UPSTAIRS in February Rec & Parks Department is doing their blood drive downstairs from 12-6:30.*

Respectfully submitted by Kirsten Gabrielsen