

TOWN OF KEEDYSVILLE, MARYLAND

“Where Northern Thrift and Personality Blend with Southern Charm and Hospitality”

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Ken Lord, Mayor
Brandon Sweeney, Assistant Mayor
Judy Kerns, Council
Matthew Hull, Council
Sarah Baker, Council

Green Team Minutes January 16, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Keedysville Green Team was called to order at 7:00 pm with the following present: Chairman Jeff Russell, Mayor Ken Lord, Team Members, Sandy Lord, Evan Wiegand, Jason Krebill, Skadi Cooke, and Administrative Assistant Teresa Pangle.

The minutes from November 21, 2024 were approved.

Old Business

Main St/Rt 34 Railbed Lease Update – Ms. Pangle reached out to Mr. Hulse (DNR) for an update but did not hear back in time for this meeting.

Railbed Cleanup Update – Still waiting to hear from Mr. Hulse (DNR). It is preferred to get this cleanup done before the end of winter.

Springfest 2025 – Ms. Pangle reported the following vendors have been contacted, Mr. Reed-Washington County Watershed Specialist will attend, Mr. Blakeslee-Md Dept of Health will share the date with colleagues, Ms. Price-Washington County Soil District and Ms. Ross-Washington County Library were contacted, waiting on responses from them. Ms. Sauter-Pollinator Palooza will mention our event at their January 27th meeting and informed me their event this year has been moved from September to June 14th if we can attend. Ms. Thomas-Potomac Valley Audubon Society will attend with a focus on kid activities. Ms. Lord will reach out to the Master Gardeners and check with her students. Last year they did a book exchange that went well. She will also update last year’s Google docs to track vendors. There was a discussion about the variety of vendors. Ms. Lord suggested putting a call out to the community. Mr. Wiegand will make a post on social media for any local sustainable businesses interested in attending. The food vendors (Fireside Pizza, Mini-Mart and Nutter’s Ice Cream) were confirmed in November. Mayor Lord said the flyers made for the Mini-Mart to hand out was good advertisement. Mr. Wiegand will update the flyers from last year to be ready for mid-March.

New Business

SM Grant Feedback – Unfortunately, the Green Team was not awarded one of the Sustainable Maryland Grants this year. Ms. Pangle had a call with them on January 13th for feedback. They received 24 applications. Based on SM Actions they were looking for diversity of project, town size, region and community being addressed. Grant reviewers scored based on the following seven categories. Here is their feedback.

Project Description-very clear, left little questions about the project.

Goals & Deliverables-outline was clear but measures to track outcome wasn't as clear. How were we measuring our progress?

Project Team-it was a good list of diverse partners, but 1 reviewer wanted to see which partners would promote the trail.

Timeline-no comments, well detailed.

Community Engagement-how would it benefit underserved community members.

Project Impact-reviewers were curious about stakeholder engagement in the process and engagement for surrounding communities.

Budget-they wanted to see a more thorough breakdown of cost/line items, they thought the in-kind donations were good.

Overall, they agreed it was a well written application but needed more defined need for the community. Mr. Krebill has experience with writing grant applications and offered to help on the next application.

Pollinator Garden Winter Maintenance – The Keedysville Mayor and Council requested a recommendation from the Green Team regarding the pollinator gardens being cut back for winter or left natural. The Green Team strongly recommends leaving the pollinator gardens natural for the winter. Cutting them back in winter defeats the purpose of a pollinator garden. There will be a time come spring when things should be cut back. Ms. Thomas will confirm the best time for that.

Little Free Pantry – Ms. Cooke suggested the idea of a free pantry and how it would be a nice addition to the town. There was much discussion about how the pantry would work (refrigerated vs not) and the best location. Everyone agreed the best option at this time is a non-refrigerated pantry in front of Town Hall. Ms. Lord suggested this as a scout project to research/design and possibly build the pantry. Ms. Thomas mentioned doing a produce swap with local gardeners at Taylor Park. In the mean-time produce can be donated to the pantry until a produce swap is established. Ms. Cooke said doing a social media post, once a week or so, helps people know what's in the pantry or what might be needed. Ms. Lord mentioned the recently purchased Church as a possible location in the future. We will need the Mayor and Council's approval for the pantry.

New Green Team Applicant – Amy Thomas was welcomed as a new member of the Green Team. Ms. Thomas participated in SpringFest 2024 as a vendor with the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Through her work with the Audubon Society, Ms. Thomas had access to grant funds that were used in Taylor Park to plant a pollinator garden and 20 trees in the spring and fall of 2024.

Comments by Team

Mayor Lord mentioned there is a clean up day on April 19th for the African American Cemetery on Red Hill Rd. Mayor Lord will be there and anyone who wants to help can attend. Ms. Lord will help facilitate with students for SSL hours. Ms. Lord said we can advertise this at SpringFest and Mayor Lord will see if they can provide a handout with details.

Chairman Russell said he has a contact who is a nationwide expert in the cleaning and restoration of cemetery headstones. This might be a good project for the Mt. Hebron Cemetery.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Teresa Pangle
Administrative Assistant