

Arden Town Forest Committee Minutes 6/23/09

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Debbie Ricard, Elizabeth Varley
Meeting was held at the entrance to the Arden Woods at Cherry Lane and Jennifer's patio

Old Business

Attended to

--Sewage line overflow from a manhole cover in Arden Woods near Hurlong's at the end of Hillside was taken care of by New Castle County by replacing a connecting pipe on the other side of the creek. It had been backing up and spilling into Naaman's Creek off and on. Any further problems should be reported immediately to:

New Castle County Special Services
(Sewer emergencies) 395-5700

Department contact:

Robb (Robert?) Roff 395-5868 (or 395-5700 x 868)

187A Old Churchman's Rd

New Castle, DE 19720

email: rroff@nccde.org

--Gate replacement was accomplished by Hal Goodwin.

--The Committee reviewed the Arden Forest Stewardship Policy and determined that, with some minor tweaking, the language was sound and the Committee felt enlightened.

--Mary will replace the "No Dumping" signs on the Sherwood forest side. (Has this been done?)

Ongoing

--Rotted tree fell on path to Indian Circle from Cherry Lane and took down several other trees with it. John Digiacomia partially cleared the path. A letter of appreciation will be sent by Carol. Larry Walker will be asked to provide an estimate for clearing the remaining substantial debris.

--Avery tract trailblazing ongoing.

--Muddy entrances to woodland at Cherry --*If a tree company is in town request that chips be placed at path entries.*

--Dumping of leaves at gateway and Highway entrances --*Someone will post signs? (Has this been done?)*

--Barrier placement at Burslem/Renzetti former parking areas. --*barriers in place at Cherry Lane entrance appear temporary and easily moved. Wait to see if barriers are practical and determine more permanent solution at a future date. At the Renzetti border/section, long and thin tree limbs were used. Pete removed the barriers, and in a conversation which Ruth and he had, continues to maintain that the committee is being unreasonable and intends the area to be used for his parking as needed.*

--Invasives removal: It was decided at the previous meeting that an important function of the Committee is to educate the community regarding invasive and alien plant species. Information should be compiled that guides leaseholders on what plants to remove, what to plant, and how to act as good stewards of the forest. This item was not discussed at the current meeting.

New Business

--Since no one on the Committee really seemed to know exactly where the boundaries of the woods lay, or the type or extent of threats to the woods in the form of non-native invasive plants, a plan to educate ourselves on these issues was discussed. Elizabeth knew of a detailed map of the woods and will have it copied for use by the Committee. The Committee proposed to undertake a survey and mapping of the worst and most obvious problems.

The Committee also discussed developing preliminary plans to address these problems. It was decided that such a plan should include a budget, a strategy for invasive plant removal, restoration of natural habitat and on-going maintenance. Organizations mentioned that could help with the development, implementation and funding of such a plan included Delaware Center for Horticulture, Longwood Gardens, New Castle County Extension, Delaware Forest Service, and Delaware Nature Society. In addition, Elaine Schmerling has gotten grants in recent years for Ardentown and Arden forests through Delaware Estuary. It was noted that a plant survey had been conducted in preparation for purchasing the Avery tract and an endangered carnivorous butterfly was found in the Sherwood Forest at that time. It was suggested that this become the new symbol of the Forest Committee.

--The Committee took a quick look at Arden's ordinances covering the forests and determined that the Committee should undertake a more thorough review of these ordinances during the course of the coming year. Specifically, ordinance #4 seems to be in need of revision. Concern was expressed that the deterrence effect of fines and enforcement is most likely inadequate and the wording confusing.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary

Meeting schedule:

Tuesday, July 21, 7:00 PM, at the water tower