

Arden Town Forest Committee Minutes 10/25/09

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Elizabeth Varley; absent: Allan Burslem, Deborah Ricard

Meeting was held at Carol's house and in Sherwood Forest

Old Business

--The rotted tree that fell on path to Indian Circle from Cherry Lane has been cleared out of the way by John Digiacomma and Ed Rohrbach. A note of appreciation will be placed in the *Arden Page* by Carol.

--Avery tract trailblazing: it was decided to put off this task until spring 2010 when the ground will be more clear of leaves and when, hopefully, more pressing Forest Committee issues have been taken care of.

--Invasives removal: Elizabeth brought in information to be published in the *Page* for November encouraging ivy removal in the woods and surrounding leaseholds. It was decided that topics on invasive plants should be published regularly in this way to further community education on the subject. It was also proposed that wire trash bins for pulled ivy be placed near or in the woods to encourage people to not leave pulled ivy in the woods to re-grow.

-- Problem trees: locations: Marsh at Millers; Renzettis. ---*This item was not discussed.*

--Muddy entrance to Arden Woods at Cherry Lane --*If a tree company is in town request that chips be placed at path entry.*

--Dumping of leaves at gateway and Highway entrances --*This item was not discussed.*

--Barrier placement at Burslem/Renzetti former parking areas. --*This item was not discussed.*

--Committee should undertake a more thorough review of Town ordinances pertaining to penalties for dumping, etc. 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. --*This item was not discussed.*

--Buckingham Green/Lubin property – History: The Buckingham Green storm drainage plan filed with the NCC Department of Land Use (Aug 9, 1994, note 1) states that all run off from roofs on Weilers Bend, house numbers 14 through 41, “shall be conveyed to the street”. On April 24th, 2008 the Lubin family (28 Weilers Bend) received a variance to build an addition close to the woods. A letter was submitted by the previous Forest Committee to the NCC Board of Adjustment protesting the run-off from the Lubins’ roof and requesting that this be taken care of. It is not clear whether this letter was made an official part of the record of the variance hearing or not. A request from the Lubins to Arden to cut down two beach trees that are looming over their new addition was made. The Department of Agriculture Urban Forester was called in to evaluate the trees (9/22/09). He stated in a letter to the Forest Committee that the tree closest to the house had few defects, but that the tree behind it was problems caused by run off from the roof and yard. A letter from the Forest Committee dated 9/22/09 was sent to the Lubins allowing them to cut the trees at their own expense; a second letter was sent 9/24 asking them to wait until the Committee had more time to evaluate the situation. A NC County code officer came out and cited the next door neighbor for a pipe that drains directly into the woods, but the Lubins’ roof downspouts drain more than 5’ from the property line, which is within the standard NCC code. The Trustees were also consulted about the trees/run off and Connie McKinney sent a note about the conditions to Ted Rosenthal. Rosenthal responded that we probably have a suit, but that if we can get the property owners to do something without suing, that would be the easiest. Tom Hornung, the Town’s insurance agent, stated that if we know about a problem like this, it is our responsibility should anything happen. A letter was sent to Ted Rosenthal (10/26/09) asking him to send the Lubins a letter requesting action to abate the run-off problem before the trees could be taken down. The Committee walked to the Lubin property during the meeting (10/25/09) and Mr. Lubin spoke to us from his porch. He stated that he was planning to install rain barrels to abate the roof run-off problem.

--Boundaries/mapping of the woods: Previously, the Committee proposed to undertake a survey and mapping of the worst and most obvious problems threatening the woods. This would be a first step in informing neighbors of the need for invasives control, water run-off abatement and correction of any encroachment. An idea was floated to create boundary markers with the image of the endangered carnivorous butterfly (species name?), as the new mascot of the Arden Forests, emblazoned on them to help people delineate the forest boundaries.

New Business

--The Committee took a walk through the forest to the Buckingham Green/NCC boundary and found several issues of dumping in the woods, run-off/erosion problems and possible encroachment. A call will be placed to Sue Rothrock to determine the placement of the birdhouses and fences that appear to mark the forest boundary. A rain garden was proposed to block run off from a pipe at Shady Lane that empties into the woods at the intersection of Ardentown, Arden woods, NCC development and appears to be causing damage to the woods. Dumping of yard waste was also observed at this site in the woods.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary

Meeting schedule:

TBA