

Forest Committee meeting minutes for May 23, 2011, 4:00 pm.

Location: Lizzie Broadbent's leasehold and E. Varley's house.

Attending: Deb Ricard, Carol Larson, Elizabeth Varley. Visitors: Lizzie Broadbent and Helga Melton

At Lizzie's, we looked at Beech trees in question and at boundaries placed by her son-in-law.

We adjourned to Elizabeth's house and continued:

Elizabeth and Carol agreed that one beech near Lizzie's was clearly diseased and should be taken down. Another beech on the opposite edge of the culvert was in a risky position and had some health questions. We agreed that was a probable removal. A very large beech in good health but within reach of Lizzie's is in question and a probable removal pending discussion with the forester. We discussed removing beeches of small diameter that may cause problems in the future, and replacing them with low growing species that have value and will not allow for large tree re-growth where unwanted. Elizabeth's list from Doug Tallamy's book include streamside trees of low height, specifically: Box Elder *Acer negundo*, River birch *Betula nigra*, Silky dogwood, *Cornus amomun*, Black gum *Nyssa sylvatica*, (check height) and Smooth alder *Alnus serrulata*, and shrubs: Chokecherry *Aronia*, Summersweet *Clethra*, Red twig dogwood *Cornus sericea*, Elderberry *Sambucus canadensis*, Pussywillow, *Salix discolor* and steplebush *Spirea tomentosa*. Carol made contact with the Urban Forester Kyle Hoyd to come and advise about Lizzie's leasehold. He will be available after June 6. Carol will get some estimates for the removals in advance of the June meeting. Ron's, Daveys, Bartletts, will be consulted.

We also discussed replacement tree choices for the Buzz Ware Center to replace the large trees that were taken down. We looked for native trees with a maximum height of 30 feet, with multiple season interest, that would tolerate a dry site, some compaction, and full sun. A list is being discussed among tree lovers by email.

Identification of leaseholds on the forest borders and developments on forest borders. A list is drawn up for members to review

The fence along Buckingham Green has sagged or come down and needs to be uprighted. Larry Walker was addressed on this issue.

Online New Castle County maps of flood plains for Naaman's Creek and Perkins Run allowed us to identify leaseholds that may have increased risk.

We proposed drawing up a policy and procedures statement for action on large trees bordering leaseholds to be ready for June Town meeting. Ideas for this statement follow:

If a leaseholder has a tree of concern, our risk assessment hinges on the following characteristics in decreasing order of importance:

- 1) floodplain
- 2) disease/damage
- 3) micro flood plain/ depression
- 4) proximity to structures

Working with the leaseholder, a Forest Committee member will visit the tree to assess risk and contact an arborist or forester if there is a question.

Upon determining the risk of a tree, forest committee procedure is to have trees cut at a considerable height (15 – 30 feet, depending on the site) to leave a snag for wildlife habitat. All wood will be left in the forest. Dispersal of the wood is at the discretion of the Forest Committee. The Forest Committee has a list of arborists whose work we have found to be acceptable and reasonably priced.

Carol will contact Steve Threefoot about the deeding of the Avery tract – old business.

We adjourned at about 6:15.