

Arden Town Forest Committee Minutes 11/28/11

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Elizabeth Varley, Deborah Ricard. Visitor: Katrina Streiff.
Meeting was held at Jennifer's house.

Old Business

- ORDINANCE #4: A standardized procedure should be created. Jen will call Steve and as him to call Amy about what NCC Police procedures in these cases are. A meeting should be set up to discuss this possibly also including Civic Committee.
- RENZETTIS: Logs and brush are still blocking the drainage ditch. Elizabeth will talk to Larry about trying to get this taken care of. This was mentioned in the March 2010 Town Meeting as a problem for storm drainage.
- CHIPS: Mullinax leasehold area chips still need to be spread.
- LETTERS TO RESIDENTS: It was proposed that letters be sent to all residents bordering the woods (both Arden leaseholds and other communities bordering the woods) reminding them of the woods policies. Specifically, stating that no dumping, run-off into the woods, and encroachment, etc. are allowed and informing residents of the new penalty structure once we have clarified the procedures for enforcement with the NCC Police Liaison and Steve Threefoot. Also needed is a letter on how and why to control non-native invasive plants. This should be sent along with a brochure of information on local natives. Jennifer said that she would look into this.
- DE STATE GRANT: DDA urban Forestry Grant disbursement has been sent. Volunteer hours have been matched.
- ADOPT-A-PLOT idea: This should be put on the back burner for now, but not forgotten.
- RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS: Jen and Carol will put together a list of projects needing volunteer help to submit to local Boy Scout troops and other volunteer groups such as schools and Americorps. Some ideas for projects include pulling ivy, monitoring/clearing paths, planting, etc.
- FOREST TRAILS: Debbie will ask the dog group that meets on the Arden Green to monitor that side of the forest for problems and Elizabeth will ask Roger Garrison to continue to monitor the Sherwood side.
- CALL TRUSTEES: to make sure shed has been removed on Milligan property (adjacent to Avery property).
- ENFORCEMENT LETTER: list 1.) the violation 2.) the fee 3.) consequences 4.) send a second letter with an action date 5.) Call and send letter to police/community liaison to contact violator 6.) Justice of the Peace Court 7.) Fine imposed
- DELAWARE CENTER FOR HORTICULTURE: Tree Planting Program: get seed plugs or trees?

New Business

- HARVESTING LUMBER: Katrina Streiff presented an idea to harvest forest trees that need to be removed and use or sell the lumber. A forester that she knows, Marcus, proposes to remove trees in a way that is relatively low impact and have the wood milled. Issues discussed: if harvesting select trees would benefit the health of the forest; where logs/lumber would be stored until used or stored (concerns about using the greens and damage); what uses/demand there might be for the lumber and to whom would it be sold; whether this would be profitable for the Town or not.
- RENZETTI PROPERTY: The Committee needs to prepare for a presentation to the January Town meeting to discuss possible acquisition of the property by the Town. Issues to research include: whether it will create a nuisance problem (check number of police reports, talk to neighbors, Safety Committee); what would be the economic impact of losing the leasehold land rent; what funding sources are available.
- PROGRESS ON GRANTS: Matched money for invasive plant management: \$2000 from Schroeder, \$1500 from budget, \$500 from volunteers. The *Arden Page* will have notice about the new effort. We are trying to involve leaseholders: \$21.67/hour for volunteers.
- MARSH & MILLERS: We are working on reducing the cover of invasives so he can work selectively with herbicide. We are considering spreading seeds to see if we can get a native plant cover for the area.
- NORWAY MAPLES: Some forest trees have been marked with red spray paint in Arden, Ardentown and Ardencroft by Carol and Elaine Schmerling.
- KnoW IVY CAMPAIGN: Notices in the *Page* and Facebook, and email are raising awareness in Town for ivy removal on the forests, greens and leaseholds.
- AMERICORPS: May be coming in March and April to help remove ivy in the forests. Help is needed with presentations and activities for the workers.
- ENCROACHMENT: Should we consider access to the woods? Theis, Renzetti, Broadbent and others all have encroachment issues.

--CANDIDATES: Elizabeth and Joad are up for re-election. We need 4 candidates. Proposed: Katrina Streiff, Dela Bryan, Mike Falstad, Chris.

--The next meeting was scheduled for 1/16/12.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary