

## **Arden Forest Committee Minutes 3-5-2012**

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Elizabeth Varley, Deborah Ricard, Joad Kazan. Visitor: Alex Rudinski

Minutes from the 1/16/12 meeting were approved.

### **Old Business**

- ONGOING MAINTENANCE: Brush needs to be cleared near Renzetti property. Chips need to be spread near Mullinax property. Larry Walker and Carol walked the trails in Sherwood with Roger Garrison. Larry subsequently cleared brush in some areas.
- PROGRESS ON GRANTS: Work is finished on Tree Management grant: the money needs to be spent by March 24<sup>th</sup>. Plants should be ordered to use these funds. DE Forest Service grant: \$4000 invasive species grant; Schroeder grant is being used as match; grant period ends 10/1/2013. Schroeder grant: Gred Gagliano has finished 36 hours of invasive removal at Marsh and Millers. Of the \$2000 grant we have spent  $\frac{3}{4}$  and will use the rest to buy plants.
- MARSH & MILLERS: We are working on reducing the cover of invasive 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.
- ENCROACHMENT: Should we consider access to the woods? Theis, Renzetti, Broadbent and others all have encroachment issues. Yoder has a bridge in the woods.
- AMERICORPS: Is coming M\_F, 3/12 to 3/16 and T-Sat, 3/20-3/31. 10 young adults will work to remove ivy along Naaman's Creek. Come out and help! We have a few Saturdays so residents can join in. A break room is being provided at the Gild Hall. Donated snacks and lunches are appreciated.
- RENZETTI PROPERTY: Ask the Trustees for clarification if the shed is coming down before property settlement.
- CANDIDATES: Elizabeth and Joad are up for re-election. We need 4 candidates. Proposed: Katrina Streiff, Dela Bryan, Mike Falstad, Chris.
- kNow IVY CAMPAIGN: Elaine is still getting a lot of response from residents mostly about their own leaseholds.
- 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, water run-off problems with suggestions to solve these issues. This should be sent along with a brochure of information on local natives, rain gardens, better species of plants for forest edge. Jennifer said that she would look into this.
- 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.
- 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. A list of procedures can be created online through Google Docs so that all can share in creation and editing.
- ARBOR DAY: We will announce this at the prior dinner, sell shrubs at the Saturday night dinner April 28<sup>th</sup>, then do plantings on that Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. This will count toward Tree City activities making our state foresters happy.
- LUMBER HARVEST: Oak from Renzettis was milled and wood is aging at Katrina Streiff's house. Wood is available for residents. There will be an announcement in the Page. If people want to harvest more wood, they should get permission from the Forest Committee Chair and only harvest down wood on or near paths to minimize impact.
- SPRING CLEAN-UP: Date is Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. This coincides with the Christina Watershed clean-up. Registration and food are at 8:45 AM at the BWVC. Debbie agreed to organize the food.
- JOINT MEETING WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING: on hydrology, invasives, leasehold acquisition to add to forest/open space.

## **New Business**

- HYDROLOGY: May is wetness awareness month. To mitigate issues suggestions are 1) plantings and rain gardens slow run-off. 2) drywells 3) rain barrels 4) green roof workshops. Issues to talk to Civic Committee, Community Planning about are which areas in the roadways contribute to problems: talk to Trustees about which leaseholds need to be watched?
- MINUTES: Carol asked if minutes had been submitted to the Town web site. Jennifer responded that they had been, but not recently. She said she would take care of that.
  
- The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 4/16/12 at 4 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary