

Arden Forest Committee Minutes 5-21-2012

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Deborah Ricard, Roger Garrison, Katrina Streiff.
Minutes were approved from the 4/16/12 meeting.

Old Business

--BOUNARIES:

Should we consider access to the woods? Theis, Renzetti, Broadbent and others all have encroachment issues. Yoder has a bridge in the woods.

Some of the fences bordering Buckingham Greene are in need of repair. Larry Walker and Dale Tatom were mentioned to help.

--CALENDAR: Carol updated the Forest Committee annual calendar.

--COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION:

Volunteers --are needed for the following: spread chips, cut multi-floral rose, ivy clear paths.

Arden Fair—plans were made to pot up native trees and plants for sale/donation at the Arden Fair and to have a booth across from the Gardener's Guild.

Arden Page—An article for the June *Page* should be about leasehold run-off issues. Suggested articles for the coming months—July: TBA; August: Native plant booth/info at the Arden Fair.

Letters-- 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. Enforcement Letters: 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. Coordinate this with Civic Committee for consistent enforcement.

JOINT MEETING WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING: on hydrology, invasives, leasehold acquisition to add to forest/open space. 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?

--DRAINAGE: Schefflen is working on run-off issues into the forest from his new construction. Carol has been meeting with him. Steve from DNREC suggested the use of rocks to slow the water from a drainage pipe. Several Norway Maples were removed.

--GRANTS/PROJECTS: DE Forest Service grant: \$4000 invasive species grant; Schroeder grant is being used as match; grant period ends 10/1/2013.

--INVAISIVES

--MAINTENANCE: Brush needs to be cleared near Renzetti property. Chips need to be spread near Mullinax property.

--REMOVALS: The look of the remaining wood from the oak near the former Renzetti leasehold is of concern to some in the Town. The Forest Committee walked to the site and decided that turning the large cut piece face down onto the ground would help minimize the problem and help hasten the decay process. Volunteers to do this will be recruited among some of the husbands of the Forest Committee members. Trees that are being watched for possible removal are near Ponte's, Bryan's and the old Isaacs leaseholds

New Business

--ADMINISTRATIVE: Categories for use in the Forest Minutes and Agenda were simplified to the following Boundaries, Calendar, Community Involvement/Education, Drainage, Grants/Projects, Invasives, Maintenance, and Removals.

--The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 18th at 4 PM at Debbie's house.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary