

Arden Forest Committee Minutes 8-31-2012

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Deborah Ricard, Katrina Streiff; visitors: Heidi Hoegger, Alex Rudinski

--BOUNDARIES:

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: Stilt grass maturing; removal effective during summer months until seed heads mature.

Spraying can start again.

--COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION:

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

Arden Fair—sign up sheet to cover booth, costumes?, rain barrel raffle, seedlings for sale, brochure display, pot up some invasives for display.

Arden Page—August: Forest booth/info at the Arden Fair and stilt grass.

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 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. A report from John Martin, Soil Scientist, DNREC, is due. Other sites of concern are Tocco and Aumack leaseholds.

--GRANTS/PROJECTS: New tree management grants due in August were put on hold. DE Forest Service grant: \$4000 invasive species grant; Schroeder grant is being used as match; grant period ends 10/1/2013.

Katrina and Carol are researching drainage throughout the Ardens, and specifically on St. Martins Lane area, with Margo Taylor, Temple University.

--INVAISIVES (see calendar above).

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE: New tree down off of Meadow Lane entrance. Spread chips near Schefflen. Ree down near Buckingham Greene? Fence at Buckingham Greene. Poison Ivy suppression needed near Marsh and Millers, Highway path, behind Heidi Hoegger's. Brush needs to be cleared near Renzetti property. Chips need to be spread near Mullinax property.

--REMOVALS/MONITORING: Trees that are being watched for possible removal are near Ponte's, Bryan's and the old Isaacs leaseholds.

--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, September 17th at 4 PM at Jen's house.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary