

Arden Forest Committee Minutes 1-20-13

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Deborah Ricard, Roger Garrison; visitor: Alex Rudinski

--BOUNDARIES:

A metal detector has been purchased so that the Committee can pin-point property boundaries. Plans are to load this out to leaseholders upon request for this purpose.

--CALENDAR: Earth Day is April 22nd. Spring woods clean-up for the Ardens was set for Saturday, April 20th.

Arbor Day is another date we need to pay attention to so that we can continue to maintain our "Tree City" designation.

--COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION: Town Meeting: Announce that Christmas trees can be composted or recycled at Holland Mulch; continuing work at Marsh and Millers; path clearing along Perkins Run; large tree losses after Sandy; Americorps volunteers; ivy battles; spring clean up and Arbor Day.

Signage was discussed to help raise awareness of Forest Committee projects. A sign at or near the Marsh and Millers site stating, "Forest Committee Restoration Area," was proposed.

Alex proposed an "Ivy Race" to get people involved in ivy removal projects. A 5-10 foot circle with a small pole or tree at the center would be cleared in a densely covered ivy area in the woods, and people would bet/compete to predict the date that the ivy re-grows and reaches the pole.

--DRAINAGE:

--GRANTS/PROJECTS:

--INVAISIVES: The Committee discussed using some of the remaining budget to purchase plugs. Carol was given the go-ahead to do this.

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE: Installation of new bridges in Sherwood Forest discussed. A bridge catalog is available on US Forest Service web site (fs.fed.us/bridges/aboutments/sill.htm) that shows appropriate bridges. Jennifer's son, Hank, may be interested in building one or more bridges for a Boy Scout project this summer.

Katrina proposed starting a Forest Committee "Tool Library" in which community members would be able to borrow tools such as a flame weeder, metal detector, or weed wrench. Use of a shed or part of a shed would be needed. The feasibility of getting a shed on BWVC property or elsewhere was discussed.

Since we have a fairly large amount of money left in the budget, there was some discussion of paying Greg Gagliano for further work.

The Committee approved spending some of the remaining budget on tools like machetes and clippers.

--REMOVALS/MONITORING: Katrina suggested that we may want to consider monitoring the deer population in the Arden Forest.

--ADMINISTRATIVE:

--The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 25th at 4 PM at Katrina's house.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary

Addendum:

Arden Forest Committee On-Going Task/Idea List

As of 1-20-13

--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:

--COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION:

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

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: 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).

--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:
