

Arden Forest Committee Minutes 2-25-13

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Deborah Ricard, Roger Garrison, Katrina Streiff; visitor: Alex Rudzinski

--BOUNDARIES:

2409 Woodland Lane –Bob Wynn: 30' right-of-way is being surveyed by Civic Committee

2302 Hillside -Hurlong property: house demolished; concern is the grading for new construction and debris may end up over the line in the forest.

2033 Marsh: called Fedale, asked them to remove dumpster again. New contractor said it should be removed week of 2/25. Send survey and letter and regarding removal of concrete/drive crossing boundary. We will call NCC police if not gone.

2107 The Highway –Ridings: New pad may be encroaching on forest land. Alex volunteered to call.

--BUDGET:

One month to spend remaining budget. A plant list was discussed. See attached.

--CALENDAR: Lesser Celandine is starting to emerge. The following dates will be submitted for the March *Arden*

Page: Forest Committee meeting 3/18, Ivy Party at Shelly Robyn's 10:00 AM, 3/24; Christina River Watershed Clean-up 4/6; Ivy Party at St. Martin's Lane trail head 4/13 9:30-11:30 AM; the Ardens Forest clean-up 4/20 8:45- noon; Earth Day is April 22nd; Arbor Day 4/26; Arden Dinner Seedling Sale 4/27.

--COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION:

Carol proposed an Arden forest website. Perhaps Larry Strange can help us with this. Also, a Facebook site could be created for the forest.

A website for volunteer recruitment is <http://volunteerdelaware.org>. Jen said she would look into this.

There is a teen volunteer fair at the Bear Library on 4/23 at 7 PM. We could get some volunteers this way.

Contact is: Jeanne Benzel (302)477-3150, jbbenzel@nccde.org.

Jen said that she could write something up for the IB Programme at Mount Pleasant High School, since they have a large service hour requirement for all students.

Arden Fair booth ideas: create a calendar with photos of the Arden woods. Sand wood slices for coasters, etc.

--DRAINAGE:

We are waiting for news about the Buckingham Greene lawsuit settlement.

1905 Millers –Scheflen: Pipe is still there. Driveway is paved, machinery stored. Discussed moving pipe over the phone. He was informed that our land manager and DNREC said it was not a good site for a rain garden due to the slope of the land, and that his small back yard would have to be the location of a new rain garden.

--GRANTS/PROJECTS:

Schroeder Grant project suggestions: 1) St. Martin's Lane area. Project would facilitate planting to mitigate drainage problems, create a barrier for bamboo, aerate soil to replant Broadbent side of the road, and lay down chips for the re-routed path. 2) Bridges for the Sherwood paths.

Marsh and Millers: ongoing invasive removal, complete planting. We need plugs. We need to disburse DDA fire suppression grant. Greg has been working on wisteria treatment, celandine, multi-flora rose treatment 1/23, 1/25.

--INVAISIVES: Ivy pulling and parties (see calendar above).

Carol is going to do tests on the emerging Lesser Celandine to see what suppresses best. Suggestions are vinegar, pulling, smothering, etc.

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE:

Installation of new bridges in Sherwood Forest discussed. Some of the remaining budget could be used to purchase small metal pre-fabricated bridges.

Hal replaced some fencing at Buckingham Greene.

--REMOVALS/MONITORING:

Lani Gibson from Buckingham Greene reported a dead tree. Carol inspected it and found it to be low risk. She is getting an estimate for topping the snag to make sure it won't reach structures. Off St. Martin's old Isaacs leasehold: on watch list. Kyle Hoyd coming to assess.

--ADMINISTRATIVE:

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 18th at 5 PM at Alex's house.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary

Plant list for Restoration: Selected from Arden Woods inventory 2003

Canopy Trees

Carya ovata shagbark Hickory - plus many carya spp.
Nyssa Sylvatica black gum
Quercus alba White oak (we have lots in certain area)
Juniperus virginiana Red Cedar

Understory

Amelanchier arborea Shad bush
Persimmon
Prunus pensylvanica cherry
Prunus serotina cherry
Sassafras albidum sassafras
Tilia Americana linden, basswood
Viburnum dentatum arrowood vib Viburnum prunifolium Black haw
Viburnum acerifolium, mapleleaf vib

Shrubs

Cornus amomum swamp dogwood
Hamamelis virginiana witch hazel
Ilex verticillata winterberry
Lindera benzoin Spice bush
Rhododendron periclymenoides Pinkster azalea
Vaccinium lowbush and highbush blueberry

Perennials:

Aster divaricatus White wood aster
Aster lateriflorus Calico aster creek edges
Cimifuga racemosa Black cohosh
Eupatorium fistulosum Joe-pye weed
Lobelia inflata Indian tobacco
Mitchella repens partridge berry
Monotropa Uniflora Indian pipe
Packera Aura golden ragwort
Podophyllum peltatum may apple
Rudbeckia lanciniata Cone flower
Sanguinaria canadensis bloodroot
Sanicula odorata, snakeroot
Saxifraga virginiana Early saxifrage found on island in creek
Solidago caesia goldenrod blue stemmed

Ferns:

Onoclea sensibilis sensitive fern wet seeps
Phegopteris hexagonoptera Broad beech fern

Grasses:

Carex amphibola Pennsylvania wood sedge
Carex spp
Poa alsodes Woodland bluegrass – to displace alien bluegrasses

Native plants to be introduced (identified on Mt. Cuba Center site www.mtcubacenter.org):

Cercis canadensis Eastern redbud Calycanthus floridus Eastern sweetshrub
To stabilize creek sides and waterlogged areas:
amelanchier spp. serviceberries
Cornus alternifolia Dogwood (edges of shaded waterways)
Chelone glabra turtleheads
Salix nigra black willow
Quercus Swamp oak (in Plants for a Liveable Delaware)
To colonize sunny roadsides to compete with alien invasive plants:
Andropogon bluestem grass
Solidago spp goldenrod
Asclepias spp milkweed

Addendum:

Arden Forest Committee On-Going Task/Idea List

As of 2/25/13

--BOUNDARIES:

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

--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 Danny Schweers. 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?

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.

--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:

--INVAISIVES (see calendar)

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.

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE: Poison Ivy suppression needed near Marsh and Millers, Highway path, behind Heidi Hoegger's. Chips need to be spread near Mullinax property.

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.

--REMOVALS/MONITORING:

--ADMINISTRATIVE:
