

Arden Forest Committee Minutes 4-17-13

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Roger Garrison, Katrina Streiff, Ed Rohrbach

-- NEW BUSINESS:

Election of officers: Carol and Katrina elected co-chairs; Jennifer elected secretary; Roger agreed to be treasurer; Ed is resting on his laurels having been newly elected to the committee.

--BOUNDARIES/ENCROACHMENT:

2409 Woodland Lane –Bob Wynn: Forest Committee agreed to send a letter to the Trustees outlining our concerns about the property. It would request that they contact the County to see that a permit of occupancy for the property not be granted until our concerns have been addressed by the leaseholder. Jennifer agreed to draft this. (See attached.)

A proposal needs to be drafted that will create an easement or land swap for right of way to the garage in exchange for either a path along the creek or use of the cement pad/stone structure near the circle. It was agreed that a special Town Meeting would not be necessary to present to the Town this agreement regarding an exchange since the June Town Meeting is coming up fairly soon. The Committee agreed that it would be wise to put information in the June Page regarding a potential agreement so that the Town can be informed and fully participate in the decision-making process.

2302 Hillside -Hurlong property: monitoring new construction.

2033 Marsh: dumpster moved. Soil damage needs to be repaired.

2305 Hillside: Ponte property- fire pit & chain link fence are in the woods. Trustees are aware and may take action when the leasehold changes hands this spring.

Katrina proposed getting surveys of leaseholds from the Trustees so that the Forest Committee would be able to mark boundaries. The County has a survey of all greens and forests. That might be a good place to start.

--BUDGET:

--CALENDAR:

Celandine peaking mid-April. Garlic mustard starting to bud.

--COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION:

Arden Forest clean up 4/20/13: start at 8:45 AM end at 12:00 noon. Need refreshments and a sign-up sheet. Be prepared for teens from Mount Pleasant High School needing service hours. Jen will post about the event in the Ardenistas Facebook site to remind people of the event.

--DRAINAGE:

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

--GRANTS/PROJECTS:

--INVAISIVES:

4/13: Removed multiflora rose from St. Martin's Lane area.

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE:

Installation of new bridges in Sherwood Forest discussed. Aluminum bridges are too expensive. Tree rings are available. Jen said her son could work on some of the bridges this summer for a Boy Scout project.

--REMOVALS/MONITORING:

Lani Gibson in Buckingham Greene is getting an opinion from State Forester Kyle Hoyd.

--ADMINISTRATIVE:

Next meeting: May 15, 2013, at 7:30 PM at the BWVC.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary

Addendum:

Arden Forest Committee On-Going Task/Idea List

As of 2/25/13

--BOUNDARIES:

Theis, Renzetti, Broadbent and others all have encroachment issues.

--CALENDAR:

--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.

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

Volunteers --are needed for the following: spread chips, cut multiflora 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 NEEDED: 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: 1905 Millers --Schefflen: 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. Other sites of concern are Tocco and Aumack leaseholds.

--GRANTS/PROJECTS:

--INVAISIVES (see calendar)

--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:

To: Arden Trustees: Mike Curtis, Carl Falco, Elizabeth Varley
From: Arden Forest Committee: Carol Larson, Katrina Streiff, Ed Rohrbach,
Roger Garrison, Jennifer Borders
CC: Arden Civic Committee, Arden Town Chair,
Arden Town Advisory Committee
Date: April 29, 2013
RE: Request to New Castle County to withhold occupancy permit

Currently, there are several unresolved issues concerning the 2409 Woodland Lane property that threaten our woodlands, and, if not addressed, will further deteriorate our forests into the foreseeable future.

These are:

1. Encroachment into the forest for access for the new garage: no agreement with the Town has yet been reached with the leaseholder to accommodate this access in exchange for the Town having usage of a portion of the leasehold. However, the leaseholder is continuing to use the forest for vehicular access without regard to consent from the Town.
2. The existing parking plan: does not allow room for resident vehicles to park unless they are in the garage. All future residents must be made aware of this, and must agree not to park in the forest or designated right-of-way.
3. Leasehold water management: existing plans submitted to the County for a swale to capture drainage from the roof and leasehold have not been followed. Consequently, the woodland path is muddy and filled with run-off during rainstorms damaging surrounding trees and causing difficulty for walkers. Rain downspouts should disperse onto the leasehold and not into the creek, at least 5 feet from the property line, in accordance with code, Section 40.22.210.
4. Boulders in the creek: boulders from excavation on site have been dumped on Town land adjacent to the creek against regulations and marring its beauty (Unified Development Code UDC for the deposition of fill from construction, Section 40.22.120).

The Forest Committee requests that the Trustees communicate in writing to New Castle County, with a copy to the leaseholder and the Forest Committee, that an occupancy permit not be granted to this new construction until these issues have been resolved. This is the last leverage we, as a Town and Trustees, have remaining over this sensitively located leasehold short of legal action. The Forest Committee urges action as soon as possible in this matter.