

September 21, 2016 --Forest Committee Meeting Minutes, 5:00

Buzz Attending: David Nordheimer, Jill Althouse-Wood, Katrina Streiff, Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders

Administrative

- Approved amended minutes from August meeting.
- Budget/Finance: only new expense since July was \$1600 for Ron's Tree Service for removal of limb of beech overhanging property on Buckingham Green.

Current Grants/Projects in Progress

-Buckingham Green Project:

Planning for access to the Buckingham Green project continues. Foresite is talking to Bev Barnett about the possibility of using Amish workhorses. This would set a standard for green renovations with as little impact on the environment as possible. We need to pin down timeline for a finish date for the planning stage so we can apply for grants for the actual project. We are checking on deadlines for implantation grants from DNREC.

2409 Woodland is still on hold because we are waiting on solution to parking/boundary issues that are currently being discussed.

Boundaries/Encroachment

-Trustees gave us notice about 1801 Green Lane changing hands. We are currently working with Trustees to orient new owners about the actual property line with the forest. Jennifer agreed to talk to her new neighbors about the property line.

- We ordered ten "No Dumping" signs at \$15 a piece to put on the border of Sherwood Forest and adjacent neighborhoods. We still need to figure where they are going.

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Drainage/Erosion

-Nothing to note.

Invasive Control

-We discussed beneficial weeds (native plants). We are hoping to put some of these weeds on Facebook on an individual basis so people can see and get ideas for plantings. David will work on this for Facebook. We are investigating putting the whole of the *Beneficial Native Plants* brochure on the Arden website after the piece gets edited.

Paths/Maintenance

-David has yet to take care of the poison Ivy detected on Arden Woods trail, but will go to it before it dies off for the season.

-Carol sent out a link for an article on path resurfacing and how to build a trail. Jen forwarded the article to Matt Kempinski, a Boy Scout who is interested in furthering the path that Hank Borders built as his Eagle project on the Annex.

-Path improvement brainstorming. Discussion about wood mulch use on the trails. Should we do something about the tree roots or leave them natural the way they exist now on the path? Should we trim plants that are growing inward, narrowing the paths? What path improvements do we want to implement? Do we need path improvement policy? Something to think about future—installing some handicapped accessible pathways. We will continue to research options and survey path walkers about problem areas.

-We will get the chainsaw fixed instead of waiting for free fixing.

Removals/Monitoring/Care of Trees

-We are still monitoring the Oak at 2409 Woodland.

-Carol is sending a letter to David Lubin at 28 Weiler's Bend in Buckingham Green concerning the White Oak tree near his property. The tree is being monitored, but appears healthy and the remaining hangers do not appear to be threatening the property.

-Carol, with Ed Rohrback (Civic Committee), is surveying and marking Ash trees in Arden so we can apply for grants to treat these trees against the Emerald Ash Borer. Discussion about how we can get grants for trees within the trust and trees in the forest and on the green.

Community Involvement/Communications

-Arden Page: What is dumping and why is it harmful? Jill will talk to Elaine about Ardentown composting site so we can mention it for use. Thank you to Cropper for helping.

-Arden Page about Ash tree count orange marker.

-Forests of the Ardens Bumper Sticker with Linda Celestian's design. Jill will check with Pat and Linda to make sure the design is usable.

-Arden Fair wrap-up. We didn't sell much this year, but we distributed a lot of brochures about plants for pollinators, native plants vs. invasive plants, and climate change.

New Business

-Mushroom Foraging and dinner on October 16th. Katrina will put a write-up in the Arden Page

-Morris Arboretum has a class on fungus in the forest about red rot and white rot. To understand decay and understand implications.

Next meeting date: October 19, 5 pm, at the BWVC.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Althouse-Wood