

March 19th, 2015 Forest Committee Meeting Minutes, 4:00 Buzz

Attending: Carol Larson, Ed Rohrbach, Jennifer Borders, Katrina Streiff, Megan Murphy King

Approved minutes from January meeting.

Up for election: Jen, Ed, Carol. New slate of candidates: David Jones, A.J. Stalloni, Jill Althouse-Woods.

Current Grants/Projects in Progress

-Buckingham Greene: A survey of the boundary between BG and Sherwood Forest is needed for the restoration project. No earlier surveys have been found in the archives. Katrina will call AES. Surface/storm water planning grant due quarterly. Apply after we have survey and estimates for Sherwood/BG restoration project.

-2409 Woodland/Shroeder grant: Path improvements start this spring--Wayne Knotts for grading, Dale Tatom for bollards. Jen will call Wayne to get started on grading for path. Ed recommended 3.5' between bollards as a reasonable distance. This is phase 1 for the project. Phase 2 will be a path to the stone circle, stone steps and a handrail.

-Tree Planting Grant 2014 was awarded jointly to Forest and Civic: we planted 40 of the 120 trees from the grant at St. Martin's Lane area. Awaiting NCC sewer and Scheflen property improvements for further work.

Boundaries/Encroachment

-Boundary markers. Spring project: the new ceramic markers should be placed at all forest entrances first: Jen's, Jill Althouse-Wood's, Lan & Bobs', etc.

-A survey of the boundaries of Sherwood Forest will be requested from AES (see BG above).

Budget

-A substantial amount of money is left in this year's budget. Spending approved for bumper stickers, and to take down any hazardous trees. A walk of the boundaries to assess needs was set for Saturday, at 1 PM.

-For next year's budget, \$2500 was approved for a contract for Red Tail Restoration (Greg Gagliano).

-Almost finished with DDA Tree Planting grant. This will carry over through April 30.

-All spending and income information should be sent to Jen for tracking on the new Excel spreadsheet.

Community Involvement

-We are trying two dates this year for the spring forest clean-up: April 18th in coordination with Christiana Watershed Clean-up, and April 25th for the annual Arden Clean-up and Invasives Pull. Start at BWVC at 8:45 for sign-ups and refreshments. Jen will send the word out to Mt. Pleasant HS again to get student volunteers for the Arden date.

-We must work on grant areas for invasives pulling (not part of grant match): St. Martins, Woodland Lane, etc. Date set for Sunday, May 3rd at 1 PM. Announce on Facebook and email.

-Arden Fair: t shirt, bumper stickers, plants. Katrina is looking into bumper stickers.

-We will have a table at the NCC Library Volunteer Fair to recruit helpers to work in the woods. Fair date: Wednesday, April 15th, 7:00-8:30 PM. Megan and Carol will woman the table.

Drainage/Erosion

-Plans for excavation and drains around sewer conduit off St. Martin's Lane postponed until April. Scheflen is having drainage difficulty with his pond. He wants to lower one edge of the pond .

-Surface/storm water planning grant due quarterly.

-Good for preparing to apply for grants: Tree inventory/mapping: www.opentreemap.org & www.phillytreemap.org. Katrina is interested in working on this.

Invasive Report

- Carol is working on establishing written procedures for invasive removal at Marsh & Millers to apply to new areas: Including St. Martin's Lane, Cherry Lane, and Perkins Bend (Theis, Somerville, Hoegger).

-Greg from Red Tail putting in a few hours every month. Recently worked at St. Martin's to continue bamboo and ivy removal.

Paths/Maintenance

-Bridge replacements for Sherwood Forest paths: Delaware Land and Conservation Trust Fund Grant program potential. Grant for bridges, walkways and boardwalks:

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/parks/Services/Pages/Grants.aspx>

-Fire Lane path?

-Hank Borders is planning to help us create a path through the Avery property section as part of his Eagle Scout project this spring. We need to show and mark where we want the path. A grant could be written for signage and other improvements for this area.

-A bridge across Perkins Run would be nice and has been discussed frequently. However, that seems to be beyond the means of the Committee right now. As an alternative, a series of flat stones strategically placed to create a natural bridge was discussed. Jennifer volunteered Walter Borders and Katrina volunteered Jim Laurino to work on this project.

Removals/monitoring

A few troublesome beeches near Sunset Lane to keep watch on.

Next meeting date: April 16, 4 pm, at the BWVC.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Borders