

April 16th, 2015 Forest Committee Meeting Minutes, 4:00 Buzz

Attending: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Katrina Streiff, Megan Murphy King, Jill Althouse-Wood

Approved minutes from March meeting.

Administrative

-Newly elected member Jill Althouse-Wood was welcomed. Carol and Katrina agreed to co-chair the committee, and Jennifer agreed to continue as secretary. Katrina will run the meetings, Jennifer will draft the agenda and write the minutes, while Carol will attend Advisory Committee and give reports to Town Meetings. Megan agreed to track the budget. Jen and Megan said they would coordinate in handing over this function to Megan. Jill, since it was her first meeting, said she would need to know more about the Committee's responsibilities before committing to an assigned role. However, she agreed to take on the monthly *Arden Page* submissions.

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. DNREC's Steve Williams is being contacted. Engineering studies will be sent to him. He recommended Joe Berg of Biohabitats for possible restoration project estimate.

-2409 Woodland/Shroeder grant: Path improvements start this spring--Wayne Knotts for grading, Dale Tatom for bollards. Jen called Wayne to get started on grading for path. Waiting for him to meet on site to discuss. 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. Tree planting in this area continues.

Boundaries/Encroachment

-Boundary markers. Spring project: the new ceramic markers should be placed at all forest entrances first: Jen's, Jill Althouse-Wood's, Lon & Bobs', etc. Recommended height for poles: 3-4'.

-A survey of the boundaries of Sherwood Forest will be requested from AES (see BG above). Katrina will contact Roberston. There is a physical description survey from 1962 and 1974 of then existing Sherwood. This does not include the "Avery Property" acquired later.

-Carol sent a letter to John Daley, of Marsh Road, to thank him for removing his structures from forest land. Jen and Carol had talked with him and asked him to remove a wood storage area and other materials. A letter was also sent to the Montgomery's, at 2033 Marsh Road, reminding them that their yard ends at the edge of their pavement of their driveway, and to not plant or use the area for any purpose.

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 get donuts and coffee for both events; Carol will organize sign-ups and provide OJ and paper goods. Jen will send the word out to Mt. Pleasant HS for the second event to get student volunteers.

-We must work on grant areas for invasives pulling (not part of grant match): St. Martins, Woodland Lane, etc. Date was changed to Saturday, June 13th, at 9 AM. Announce on Facebook and email.

-Arden Fair: 50 bumper stickers were ordered at \$1.50 each. We will sell for \$3 each. It was suggested that we get a flat of Trillium to sell at the Fair. This might be a popular native plant, and any left-overs could be sold to Committee members or others at cost. Also, Cecilia has some fun, "Order of the Carnivorous Butterfly", buttons that might be fun for both the Fair and ACRA.

-We had a table at the NCC Library Volunteer Fair to recruit helpers to work in the woods on Wednesday, April 15th. Megan and Carol were able to collect names for an email list.

-May *Arden Page* submission: Garlic Mustard—important to pull at this time of year before the seeds are released; also emphasize not to compost it- put it directly in trash.

Drainage/Erosion

-St. Martin's Lane: Schefflen is still having drainage difficulty with his pond. He has cut channels out of the pond on either side that may compound the erosion problems. Katrina will call him.

-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). After the procedures are reviewed and approved by the Committee, they will be posted to the Arden government website.

-Email correspondence from Warren Rosenkranz about use of Round-Up was reviewed by the Committee. Jen said she would email him to thank him for the information and let him know that the Committee was in the process of developing guidelines on herbicide usage.

-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>

-Hank Borders' Eagle project is in the planning stages. He hopes to help us create a path through the Avery property section as part of his Eagle Scout project this spring. Carol and Jen toured the area with him recently. We need to show and mark where we want the path. There is a question: what material the path should be made of since it crosses several swampy areas, and since we do not want to create more run-off? Jen said she would research. Adirondack Club was sited as a source of information for trail building. A grant could be written for signage and other improvements for this area.

-A bridge across Perkins Run is needed and has been discussed frequently. A series of flat stones strategically placed to create a natural bridge was discussed. Jennifer said that Walter had agreed to work with Jim Laurino on this project.

Removals/monitoring

Sunset Farms oak: on watch list.

Next meeting date: May 21, 4 pm, at the BWVC.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Borders