

May 15th, 2015 Forest Committee Meeting Minutes, 4:00 Buzz

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

Approved minutes from April meeting.

Administrative

-Budget/Finance: Tree planting grant has been spent and will be reimbursed to Town soon. We are watching the Treasurer's reporting to make sure we get a separate account for grant monies that come in due to Forest Committee grant writing.

Current Grants/Projects in Progress

-Buckingham Greene: A survey of the boundary between BG and Sherwood Forest is needed for the restoration project. Carol sent video and photos of BG damages to DNREC's Steve Williams and Joe Berg of Biohabitats. They will need to come out and walk the property.

-2409 Woodland/Shroeder grant: Wayne Knotts moved some large stones to prevent vehicular access and removed some of the crusher run stones. Next, Dale Tatom will be contacted by Carol for bollards. 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. Jen will call Rick Rothrock to see if he can work on the steps before he leaves for Vermont for the summer. Carol might plant marsh marigold in the area.

-Tree Planting Grant 2014: all planting has been finished and a report sent in. We are waiting for them to send a check to the Town for reimbursement.

Boundaries/Encroachment

-Boundary markers. Spring project: Jen went so far as to purchase a test pole, but has not done more.

-Carol and Katrina walked the boundaries of the Sherwood together. 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.

Community Involvement

-The spring forest clean-up dates of April 18th in coordination with Christiana Watershed Clean-up, and April 25th for the annual Arden Clean-up and Invasives Pull were well attended. However, the Committee agreed that a single date would be best for next year so that energies could be consolidated. The idea of a Garlic Mustard Pesto Party was discussed. Next year, after people pull garlic mustard we could have one or two food processors going in the BWVC and make pesto on the spot! It would be a great reward after doing the work and may motivate more people to come out and pull mustard garlic.

-We must work on grant areas for invasives pulling (not part of grant match): St. Martins, Woodland Lane, etc. Invasives Pull date was changed to Saturday, June 13th, at 9 AM. Meet at BWVC. 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, but this will not be up or flowering in the fall. We need a pretty native plant, preferably blooming at that time of year. Purchase a flat 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.

-June *Arden Page* submission: Invasives pull event, plus update on fish kill event (see below).

Drainage/Erosion

-St. Martin's Lane: Schefflen is still having drainage difficulty with his pond. A plan he is developing is due next week.

Invasive Control

- Carol is working on establishing written procedures for invasive control. At next meeting the Committee should review Carol's procedures and create a policy statement. This will be posted to the Arden government website.

Paths/Maintenance

-Bridge replacements for Sherwood Forest paths: request Schroeder funds; also 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> Get bids from Dale Tatom and Hal to compare to Ken Morrison's.

-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. Jen said that she would work with him to research appropriate path building methods that are low impact and can work in a wet/marshy environment.

-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. Walter has purchased special straps for the project. Will ask Walter to call Jim.

Removals/monitoring

-Poplar removed in forest. Sunset Farms oak: on watch list.

-A tree inventory from Davey of leaseholds, greens, and forest edges including risk assessment could cost \$11,000. Jen said that the Trustees did a leasehold tree evaluation in the past that tested large trees for risk. She said that she would try to find the one they did on her trees.

Stream Watch

There was a fish kill observed by several walkers on the Naamans Creek the weekend of May 16th. DNREC's Emergency Response Group came out to test the water. Oxygen levels of 5.0 (normal/low) were observed. They will follow up.

Next meeting date: June 18th, 4 pm, at the BWVC.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Borders