

June 18th, 2015 Forest Committee Meeting Minutes, 4:00 Buzz

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

Approved minutes from May meeting.

Administrative

-Budget/Finance: 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. Our finance tracking should be sent to the Town Treasurer bi-monthly, or as needed.

Current Grants/Projects in Progress

-Buckingham Greene: Steve Williams, of DNREC, and Megan Gloyd, of Biohabitats, walked the property with Carol June 17th. She will provide an estimate on a proposal. Steve recommended a possible "plunge pool", but this would be on BG property and would require their approval. A survey of the boundary between BG and Sherwood Forest is needed for the restoration project (see "Boundaries/Encroachment" below). Carol will find out if we need more than one bid for a water planning grant for this area. Jen will remind Katrina to call about getting a survey.

-2409 Woodland/Schroeder grant: Next, Carol will contact Dale Tatom for bollards. Ed recommended 3.5' between bollards as a reasonable distance. This is phase 1 for the project. Phase 2 is a path to the stone circle, stone steps and a handrail. Jen called Rick Rothrock to see if he can work on the steps before he leaves for Vermont for the summer. A meeting was set for Friday. Carol might plant marsh marigold in the area.

Boundaries/Encroachment

-Boundary markers: Jen went so far as to purchase a test pole, but has not done more. Carol suggested applying for a Schroeder grant for markers for the boundary Sherwood forest – providing something more permanent than the bird house system.

-2033 Marsh Road: encroachment has begun—truck parked and compost pile on forest land. Fencing it seems to be the only viable solution. Leaseholder has not responded to multiple attempts at contact: letters, knocking on the door.

-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/Communications

-The invasives pull on Saturday, June 13th had only 4 attendees.

-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 a native plant to sell at the Fair, but it is still TBA which one. Jill suggested that we advertise that if you buy one plant we will plant one in the forest. 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.

-July *Arden Page* submission: Arden Fair plans, plus update on fish kill event.

Drainage/Erosion

-St. Martin's Lane: Schefflen wants to have a retention/water garden with a pipe draining into the forest 8-10 feet. The Committee is currently divided about whether we should okay this or not.

Invasive Control

- Carol is working on establishing written procedures for invasive control. Carol will email a draft of this to be reviewed prior to the next Committee meeting. The final version of this will be posted to the Arden government website.

Paths/Maintenance

-Bridge replacements for Sherwood Forest paths: Carol will contact Hal and Dale Tatom to get another set of bids to compare to Ken Morrison's bid. We could 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>

-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; and Jill volunteered Mark Wood!

Removals/monitoring

-Sunset Farms oak: on watch list.

-A tree inventory from Davey of leaseholds, greens, and forest edges including risk assessment could cost \$23,000. Preservation Tree would be about the same cost. Bartlett has a good software program that could help us in the future. We need to find out the cost.

Stream Watch

Ongoing monitoring stations would be ideal. There are electronic water monitors available (another Schroeder fund grant?).

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Borders