

Arden Forest Committee Minutes 6/19/14

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Katrina Streiff, Ed Rohrbach

--BOUNDARIES/ENCROACHMENT:

- 2033 Marsh Rd: needs to have debris removed, fence, replant with something indigenous: service berry, dogwood
- Markers for forest boundaries: Jen said she would look into doing an ACRA project in clay with the kids this summer. The goal is making 50 markers with the kids. Will help raise awareness about forest boundaries.

--BUDGET:

- New budget started April 1.
- Jen and Carol will work on budgeting together. We should talk with Michelson about keeping grant monies in a separate fund for Forest Committee. Next meeting could be Wednesday, July 9th.
- Greg Gagliano contract this year is \$1200.

--CALENDAR/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION

- Arden Page* for July/August: Stilt grass pulling.
- Arden Fair: calendar idea scraped for this year. People don't use them as much as they used to, plus there are many free ones out there. Tee shirts pose a sizing problem. Hats with a slogan, "May the Forest be with You," or some such seem to be the best idea. Date is August 30th.

--DRAINAGE:

- Plans for excavation and drains around sewer conduit off St. Martin's Lane were sent from NCC. Easement agreement for access signed. Plans on hold: NCC will contact us.
- Buckingham Greene: \$65K award from the lawsuit for mitigation of the damage to the forest. We should get any engineering studies that have already been conducted during the course of the lawsuit as a starting point from Trustees and Marianne C. Surface water planning grant can be used to double the money.
- Carol is working with New Castle County WA about stormwater issues at Lancashire School on Naaman's Rd. Teacher met with principal and superintendent: issues not resolved.

--GRANTS/PROJECTS:

- Sumac planting suggested by Katrina. Can harvest the fruits for spice -*Rhus aromatica*.
- Schroeder grant: Pending path improvements, etc. approved for 2409 Woodland. More solid proposal from Phil Fisher for a hand rail obtained.
- DTF Grant opportunity: Delaware Land and Conservation Trust Fund Grant program. Grant for bridges, walkways and boardwalks?
- Surface/storm water planning grant due in August. Carol discussed with Community Planning and Advisory. Next step is getting estimates for drawing up a plan from engineers.

--INVAISIVES:

- Marsh & Millers: ongoing removals with Greg G. and treatment for invasives. Vinca and Lesser Celandine are problems. He did spray for Celandine.
- 2033 Marsh needs it an Ivy Party. Hank Borders' Boy Scout project can pull ivy.

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE:

- Ed has been laying down wood cookies to help in wet path areas.
- Jennifer and Roger went with Ken Morrison to Sherwood and identified 4 bridge projects (10', 12' and two at 16') and 2 areas needing tree cookies. Ken will send us an estimate for the work. Since they are in remote locations, Ken asked if we could organize volunteers to help haul materials and equipment to the sites.

--REMOVALS/MONITORING:

- Dead tree removed behind Peg Shaw's house. We paid half of \$600. She paid balance.
- A few troublesome beeches to watch on Sunset Lane.

--ADMINISTRATIVE:

- Next meeting: June 17th, at 4 PM at the BWVC.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary

Addendum:

Arden Forest Committee On-Going Task/Idea List

As of 3/20/14

--BOUNDARIES:

Get surveys of leaseholds from the Trustees so that the Forest Committee can mark boundaries. The County has a survey of all greens and forests.

--CALENDAR:

--COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION:

Carol proposed an Arden forest website. Perhaps Larry Strange can help us with this. Also, a Facebook site could be created for the forest.

A website for volunteer recruitment is <http://volunteerdelaware.org>. Jen said she would look into this.

Sand wood slices for coasters, etc.

Volunteers --are needed for the following: spread chips, cut multiflora rose, ivy clear paths.

Letters-- It was proposed that letters be sent to all residents bordering the woods (both Arden leaseholds and other communities bordering the woods) reminding them of the woods policies. Specifically, stating that no dumping, run-off into the woods, and encroachment, etc. are allowed and informing residents of the new penalty structure once we have clarified the procedures for enforcement with the NCC Police Liaison and Danny Schweers. Also needed is a letter on how and why to control non-native invasive plants, water run-off problems with suggestions to solve these issues. This should be sent along with a brochure of information on local natives, rain gardens, better species of plants for forest edge. Enforcement Letters: list 1.) the violation 2.) the fee 3.) consequences 4.) send a second letter with an action date 5.) Call and send letter to police/community liaison to contact violator 6.) Justice of the Peace Court 7.) Fine imposed. A list of procedures can be created online through Google Docs so that all can share in creation and editing. Coordinate this with Civic Committee for consistent enforcement.

JOINT MEETING WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING NEEDED: on hydrology, invasives, leasehold acquisition to add to forest/open space. To mitigate issues suggestions are 1) plantings and rain gardens slow run-off. 2) drywells 3) rain barrels 4) green roof workshops. Issues to talk to Civic Committee, Community Planning about are which areas in the roadways contribute to problems: talk to Trustees about which leaseholds need to be watched?

Signage was discussed to help raise awareness of Forest Committee projects. A sign at or near the Marsh and Millers site stating, "Forest Committee Restoration Area," was proposed.

--DRAINAGE: 1905 Millers --Scheflen: Pipe is still there. Driveway is paved, machinery stored. He was informed that our land manager and DNREC said it was not a good site for a rain garden due to the slope of the land, and that his small back yard would have to be the location of a new rain garden. Other sites of concern are Tocco and Aumack leaseholds.

--GRANTS/PROJECTS:

Carol is writing a synopsis of procedures used at Marsh and Millers. May be applicable to St. Martin's Lane, Cherry Lane, and Perkins Bend (Theis, Somerville, Hoegger areas).

New Ardentown resident Ben Gruswitz, an urban planner, is working on a tree inventory and mapping for Ardentown (use www.opentreemap.org and www.phillytreemap.org).

- U&CF Tree Management Grant: we will get the funding when money is released from Feds.
- DTF Grant opportunity (see attached letter) www.dnrec.delaware.gov/parks/services/pages/grants.aspx
Delaware Land and Conservation Trust Fund Grant program
Grant for walkways and boardwalks?

Surface/Storm water planning grant: Discuss with Community Planning.

Ideas for projects to prepare for grant deadlines:

§ 2014 Tree planting grant for reforestation: 2033 Marsh, 2409 Woodland, Broadbent, St. Martins, Pontes.

Surface Water Matching Planning Grants deadline was late August. Addresses forest erosion and water quality. 2014 efforts should be discussed with Community Planning

Noting procedures used for invasive removal at Marsh & Millers to apply to three new areas: St. Martin's Lane, Cherry Lane, and Perkins Bend (Theis, Hoegger).

Tree inventory/mapping. Ben Gruswitz introduced www.opentreemap.org & www.phillytreemap.org

--INVAISIVES (see web-based calendar for updates)

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE:

Katrina proposed starting a Forest Committee "Tool Library" in which community members would be able to borrow tools such as a flame weeder, metal detector, or weed wrench. Use of a shed or part of a shed would be needed. The feasibility of getting a shed on BWVC property or elsewhere was discussed.

Jen said her son could work on some of the bridges this summer for a Boy Scout project.

--REMOVALS/MONITORING:

--ADMINISTRATIVE: