

Arden Town Forest Committee Minutes 12/7/09

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Elizabeth Varley, Deborah Ricard; absent: Allan Burslem

Meeting was held at the water tower and in the Avery tract of Sherwood Forest

Old Business

Not discussed at this meeting:

- The rotted tree that fell on path to Indian Circle from Cherry Lane has been cleared out of the way by John Digiacoma and Ed Rohrbach. A note of appreciation will be placed in the *Arden Page* by Carol.
- Avery tract trailblazing: it was decided to put off this task until spring 2010 when the ground will be more clear of leaves and when, hopefully, more pressing Forest Committee issues have been taken care of.
- Invasives removal: Elizabeth brought in information to be published in the *Page* for November encouraging ivy removal in the woods and surrounding leaseholds. It was decided that topics on invasive plants should be published regularly in this way to further community education on the subject. It was also proposed that wire trash bins for pulled ivy be placed near or in the woods to encourage people to not leave pulled ivy in the woods to re-grow.
- Problem trees: locations: Marsh at Millers; Renzettis.
- Muddy entrance to Arden Woods at Cherry Lane --*If a tree company is in town request that chips be placed at path entry.*
- Dumping of leaves at gateway and Highway entrances.
- Barrier placement at Burslem/Renzetti former parking areas.
- Committee should undertake a more thorough review of Town ordinances pertaining to penalties for dumping, etc. during the course of the coming year. Specifically, ordinance #4 seems to be in need of revision. Concern was expressed that the deterrence effect of fines and enforcement is most likely inadequate and the wording confusing.
- Boundaries/mapping of the woods: Previously, the Committee proposed to undertake a survey and mapping of the worst and most obvious problems threatening the woods. This would be a first step in informing neighbors of the need for invasives control, water run-off abatement and correction of any encroachment. An idea was floated to create boundary markers with the image of the endangered carnivorous butterfly (species name?), as the new mascot of the Arden Forests, emblazoned on them to help people delineate the forest boundaries.

Discussed at this meeting:

- Buckingham Green/Lubin property – No response to the letter sent to the Lubins. Carol will check with the town lawyer about further action.
- The Buckingham Green/NCC boundary is marked by a few birdhouses. Civic committee and Sue Rothrock were aware of the encroachment problems along this boundary. There remain several issues of dumping in the woods and run-off/erosion problems. A rain garden was proposed to block run off from a pipe at Shady Lane that empties into the woods at the intersection of Ardentown, Arden woods, NCC development and appears to be causing damage to the woods. Dumping of yard waste was also observed at this site in the woods.

New Business

- The walk from the water tower took us up past Deborah Kenney's property along Marsh Road where it was determined that Marsh Road was aptly named: the area generally is very wet and mushy. Run off from the road and from the development across Marsh do drain into the woods. It looks as though it was intentionally designed that way and any mitigation would involve road and development redesign. To make the most of this area, the committee decided that planting native wetlands shrubs and plants makes sense. Elizabeth volunteered to look into appropriate plantings. A grant application could be developed for these types of expenses for the Schroeder funds or another outside foundation or agency.
- It was decided that the next meeting (TBA January 2010) should be for brainstorming and developing one or two main projects on which the committee should focus.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary