

Arden Forest Committee Minutes 4-16-2012

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Deborah Ricard, Roger Garrison, Katrina Streiff. Visitor: Alex Rudinski

Old Business

- ONGOING MAINTENANCE: Brush needs to be cleared near Renzetti property. Chips need to be spread near Mullinax property.
- PROGRESS ON GRANTS: Work is finished on Tree Management grant 2011. DE Forest Service grant: \$4000 invasive species grant; Schroeder grant is being used as match; grant period ends 10/1/2013. Schroeder grant: Gred Gagliano has been working at Marsh and Millers.
- MARSH & MILLERS: We are working on reducing the cover of invasive so he can work selectively with herbicide. We are considering spreading seeds to see if we can get a native plant cover for the area.
- ENCROACHMENT: Should we consider access to the woods? Theis, Renzetti, Broadbent and others all have encroachment issues. Yoder has a bridge in the woods.
- AMERICORPS: Finished up and was a great success.
- kNOw IVY CAMPAIGN: Elaine is still getting a lot of response from residents mostly about their own leaseholds.
- LETTERS TO RESIDENTS: 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 Steve Threefoot. 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. Jennifer said that she would look into this.
- ADOPT-A-PLOT idea: This should be put on the back burner for now, but not forgotten.
- RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS: Jen and Carol will put together a list of projects needing volunteer help to submit to local Boy Scout troops and other volunteer groups such as schools. Some ideas for projects include pulling ivy, monitoring/clearing paths, planting, etc.
- ENFORCEMENT LETTER: 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.
- ARBOR DAY: We will announce this at the prior dinner, sell shrubs at the Saturday night dinner April 28th, then do plantings on that Sunday, April 29th. This will count toward Tree City activities making our state foresters happy.
- WOOD REMOVAL: Oak from Renzettis is at Katrina's house. Some at Town Meeting were upset at how the remaining wood in the forest looks messy and unnatural. Ed Rohrbach submitted an article to the *Arden Page* that had many incorrect statements about the issue. Carol is submitting a response to the *Page*. Ideas were brainstormed to come up with a solution.
- SPRING CLEAN-UP: Date is Saturday, April 21st. This coincides with the Christina Watershed clean-up. Registration and food are at 8:45 AM at the BWVC. Debbie agreed to organize the food.
- JOINT MEETING WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING: on hydrology, invasives, leasehold acquisition to add to forest/open space.
- HYDROLOGY: May is wetness awareness month. 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?

New Business

- FENCE REPAIR: The fence bordering Buckingham Greene needs repair. Larry Walker and Dale Tatom were mentioned to help.
- ARDEN PAGE: Suggested articles for the coming months—May: response to Ed; June: Wetness awareness; July: TBA; August: Native plant booth/info at the Arden Fair

--ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Carol was unanimously re-elected as Chair. Jen made a plaintive plea for someone else to be Secretary, but was ignored and re-elected.

--The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 21st at 4 PM at Jennifer's house.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary