

Arden Forest Committee Minutes 3-18-13

Members present: Carol Larson, Jennifer Borders, Deborah Ricard, Roger Garrison, Katrina Streiff; visitors: Alex Rudzinski,

--BOUNDARIES:

2409 Woodland Lane -Bob Wynn: 30' right-of-way is being surveyed by Civic Committee. Civic, Forest and Trustees met and proposed the following language to be presented to the upcoming Town meeting:

The original proposed solution with Bob Wynn called for a one-for-one exchange of right-of-way (ROW) land for forest land to accommodate access to the new garage. However, once enough space was allotted for vehicles to be able to turn around in the ROW, it became evident that there was no remaining space to give back to forest land.

Therefore, it is proposed that an easement be granted to the leasehold of the square footage needed to accommodate the additional ROW, and, in exchange, an easement be granted to the Town from the leaseholder for an equal amount of square footage from the leasehold's floodplain to be added to forest land. The new easement does not include exclusive use by the leaseholder, and should be clear of parked vehicles so that the forest path is not blocked and the public can turn around in the space when necessary.

2302 Hillside -Hurlong property: house demolished; concern is the grading for new construction and debris may end up over the line in the forest. Need to contact.

2033 Marsh: called Fedale, asked them to remove dumpster again. New sub-contractor said it should be removed week of 2/25. Send survey and letter and regarding removal of concrete/drive crossing boundary. We will call NCC police if not gone.

--BUDGET:

Still have \$5000 left. More time for Greg Gagliano was approved for invasives removal.

--CALENDAR: The following dates were submitted for the March *Arden Page*: Forest Committee meeting 3/18, Ivy Party at Shelly Robyn's 10:00 AM, 3/24; Christina River Watershed Clean-up 4/6; Ivy Party at St. Martin's Lane trail head 4/13 9:30-11:30 AM; the Ardens Forest clean-up 4/20 8:45- noon; Earth Day is April 22nd; Arbor Day 4/26; Arden Dinner Seedling Sale 4/27.

--COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION:

--DRAINAGE:

We are waiting for news about the Buckingham Greene lawsuit settlement.

--GRANTS/PROJECTS:

Schroeder Grant project suggestions: 1) St. Martin's Lane area. Project would facilitate planting to mitigate drainage problems, create a barrier for bamboo, aerate soil to replant Broadbent side of the road, and lay down chips for the re-routed path. 2) Bridges for the Sherwood paths. Carol talked to Larry Walker. Marsh and Millers: ongoing invasive removal, complete planting. We need plugs. We need to disburse DDA fire suppression grant. Greg has been working on wisteria treatment, celandine, multi-flora rose treatment.

--INVAISIVES: Ivy pulling and parties.

Carol is doing tests on the emerging Lesser Celandine to see what suppresses best. Suggestions are vinegar, pulling, smothering, etc.

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE:

Installation of new bridges in Sherwood Forest discussed. Some of the remaining budget could be used to purchase small metal pre-fabricated bridges.

--REMOVALS/MONITORING:

Heidi Hoegger got approval to take down a poplar. Forest will pay 25% of the cost.

Off St. Martin's old Isaacs leasehold: on watch list. Kyle Hoyd coming to assess.

--ADMINISTRATIVE:
TBA

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary

Addendum:
Arden Forest Committee On-Going Task/Idea List

As of 2/25/13

--BOUNDARIES:

Theis, Renzetti, Broadbent and others all have encroachment issues.

--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.

There is a teen volunteer fair at the Bear Library on 4/23 at 7 PM. We could get some volunteers this way.

Contact is: Jeanne Benzel (302)477-3150, jbbenzel@nccde.org.

Jen said that she could write something up for the IB Programme at Mount Pleasant High School, since they have a large service hour requirement for all students.

Arden Fair booth ideas: create a calendar with photos of the Arden woods. Sand wood slices for coasters, etc.

Volunteers --are needed for the following: spread chips, cut multi-floral 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. Jennifer said that she would look into this.

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. Discussed moving pipe over the phone. 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:

--INVAISIVES (see calendar)

Alex proposed an “Ivy Race” to get people involved in ivy removal projects. A 5-10 foot circle with a small pole or tree at the center would be cleared in a densely covered ivy area in the woods, and people would bet/compete to predict the date that the ivy re-grows and reaches the pole.

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE: Poison Ivy suppression needed near Marsh and Millers, Highway path, behind Heidi Hoegger’s. Chips need to be spread near Mullinax property.
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.

--REMOVALS/MONITORING:

--ADMINISTRATIVE:
