

Arden Forest Committee Minutes 6-19-13

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

Visitors present: Tom Wheeler, Rodney Jester, Danny Schweers, Bill Theis, Mike Curtis, Elizabeth Varley

-- MINUTES:

Minutes from the 5/15/13 meeting were approved.

--BOUNDARIES/ENCROACHMENT:

2409 Woodland Lane –Bob Wynn: Katrina has begun negotiations with the leaseholder. So far, Bob Wynn is not interested in negotiating an easement swap. Kenny Wynn, his son and contractor for the site, sounded like he was ok with an easement swap that entailed the upstream corner of the lot along the creek. Carol drafted an easement agreement as a starting point: to be reviewed by a lawyer.

Issues to be updated at Town Meeting include: status of purchase for the lot, creek path, cease and desist order voted on at the last Town Meeting, current status of the hold on the Certificate of Occupancy, and development of the stone circle along the creek for Town use.

Kenny has agreed to remediate the soil issues on the forest path.

2302 Hillside -monitoring construction on forest boundary; silt fence is in place.

2033 Marsh: leaseholder agreed to repair soil damage and remove paving in forest when the area is repaved.

--BUDGET:

--CALENDAR:

Spraying for poison ivy along the paths in late June.

--COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION:

July/August *Arden Page* submission poison ivy, Arden Fair booth.

--DRAINAGE:

Heidi Hoegger donated calycanthus shrubs which were placed in the erosion channel off Millers Rd.

--GRANTS/PROJECTS:

DTF Grant opportunity

Delaware Land and Conservation Trust Fund Grant

Funds came in from the State for the last grant: paperwork went to Michelson.

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).

--INVAISIVES:

Multiflora rose, poison ivy and wisteria rising.

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE:

--REMOVALS/MONITORING:

Lani Gibson in Buckingham Greene is getting an opinion from State Forester Kyle Hoyd.

--ADMINISTRATIVE:

Next meeting: July 17, 2013, at 7:30 PM at the BWVC.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Borders, Forest Committee Secretary

Addendum:

Arden Forest Committee On-Going Task/Idea List

As of 6/19/13

--BOUNDARIES:

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

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.

2305 Hillside: Ponte property- fence in the woods has been removed. Committee should mark forest boundary.

--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.

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 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. 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.

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

--GRANTS/PROJECTS:

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

--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.

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

--REMOVALS/MONITORING:

--ADMINISTRATIVE:
