

Arden Forest Committee Minutes 9-18-13

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

--BOUNDARIES/ENCROACHMENT:

2409 Woodland Lane –Bob Wynn: Time to fence the property. Carol is coordinating with Wayne Knotts to install a fence and temporarily move boulders into place to protect the forest. We should present this at the upcoming Town meeting.

2032 Hillside: House has sold.

2033 Marsh: soil damage needs to be repaired, removal of paving, replant.

--BUDGET:

Spent on Greg Gagliano, “Most Hated Plants” calendar was very popular. Cost is reduced by sales.

--CALENDAR:

Photos needed for next year’s calendar.

--COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION:

Arden Page submissions.

Arden Fair Booth: sold calendars, bumper stickers, a few native trees. Good community awareness opportunity.

--DRAINAGE:

Development of an overall plan for the village may be available in a matching grant. Need to get Civic and Community Planning Committees involved for this.

--GRANTS/PROJECTS:

U&CF Tree Management Grant submitted.

Forest Canopy Resolution should be presented at Town meeting. This is a commitment to increase our tree canopy by the year 2015.

DTF Grant opportunity

Delaware Land and Conservation Trust Fund Grant

--INVAISIVES:

Greg is working on stilt grass at the corner of Marsh and Millers.

Annual kudzu removal was at St. Martins.

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE:

Chains need replacing at either end of Hillside. Jennifer volunteered her son, again, to start a bridge project for Sherwood Forest.

--REMOVALS/MONITORING:

Lani Gibson in Buckingham Greene got an opinion from State Forester Kesha Brawnskill. She recommended that they reduce the height of the dead tree. Carol spoke to Mr. Gibson.

--ADMINISTRATIVE:

Next meeting: October 16th, 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 9/18/13

--BOUNDARIES:

Theis, Wynn, 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.

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:

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 (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: