

Arden Forest Committee Minutes 11-21-13

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

--BOUNDARIES/ENCROACHMENT:

- Letter received from Scheflen stating that he will work on a rain garden solution in the spring.
- 2409 Woodland Lane –Bob Wynn: Easement agreement signed by Committee and Trustees. Waiting for Bob and Kenny. Path and fence will wait until we have a signed agreement with Wynn. Goals are to reduce the crusher run that has been laid down into the forest and to clearly mark/fence the forest boundary to prevent vehicular damage.
- 2032 Hillside: House has sold, silt fence has been removed. Boundary has been checked with builder, Joe Jancuska.
- 2033 Marsh: driveway removed, needs to have debris removed, and replanting; property for sale.
- Markers for forest boundaries: Carol talked to Phil Fisher about making metal markers-- \$5 each. Katrina contacted someone that can do a laser-cut tree design, but is too expensive. Ask Denis O'Reagan about this since he does laser wood cutting. Could use Schroeder money potentially?

--BUDGET:

- Spent on Greg Gagliano \$600. Budgeted \$1200.
- \$2000 left in the budget for the year until March 2014.
- We should talk with Michelson about keeping grant monies in a separate fund for Forest Committee.

--CALENDAR:

- Photos needed for next year's calendar: "Most Loved Plants of the Ardens".

--COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION:

- Arden Page submission for December.
- Cook dinner at end of April: opportunity for more education and selling trees for Arbor Day.

--DRAINAGE:

- Buckingham Greene: At last Town Meeting it was approved that the Forest Committee should determine how to spend the \$65K award from the law suit for mitigation of the damage to the forest. The Committee went to go see the forest damage. We should get any engineering studies that have already been conducted during the course of the law suit as a starting point. Surface water planning grant can be used to double the money.
- Ask Ray Seigfried to put master water management planning for the entire Village as a priority for the Community Planning Committee. (Planning grant due in summer.)

--GRANTS/PROJECTS:

- Schroeder grant: use for Wynn property protection/beautification--4 bollards, plantings, trees, move crusher run, improve soil.
- U&CF Tree Management Grant \$ -will receive when released from government.
- See ideas for future projects in addendum.

--INVAISIVES:

- Bamboo control at Schflens needed.
- Marsh & Millers: ongoing removals and treatment for invasives. Norway Maples removed. Vinca a problem.

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE:

- Chains need replacing at either end of Hillside. Civic replaced some.
- Hardwood rounds were placed on paths where footing is muddy. Ed did this and it was appreciated by many.
- Hank Borders is developing a Scout project to replace a couple of bridges in Sherwood.

--REMOVALS/MONITORING:

--ADMINISTRATIVE:

- Next meeting: January 16th, 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 10/17/13

--BOUNDARIES:

Theis, 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.

--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. 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. 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:

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).

- U&CF Tree Management Grant: we will get the funding when money is released from Feds.
- DTF Grant opportunity (see attached letter) www.dnrec.delaware.gov/parks/services/pages/grants.aspx
Delaware Land and Conservation Trust Fund Grant program

Grant for walkways and boardwalks?

Surface/Storm water planning grant: Discuss with Community Planning.

Ideas for projects to prepare for grant deadlines:

§ 2014 Tree planting grant for reforestation: 2033 Marsh, 2409 Woodland, Broadbent, St. Martins, Pontes.

Surface Water Matching Planning Grants deadline was late August. Addresses forest erosion and water quality. 2014 efforts should be discussed with Community Planning

Noting procedures used for invasive removal at Marsh & Millers to apply to three new areas: St. Martin's Lane, Cherry Lane, and Perkins Bend (Theis, Hoegger).

Tree inventory/mapping. Ben Gruswitz introduced www.opentreemap.org & www.phillytreemap.org

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

--PATHS/MAINTENANCE:

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: