

Arden Forest Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 5:00 PM
BWVC

In attendance: Jill Althouse-Wood, Carol Larson, David Jones, David Nordheimer, Jen Borders

1. We approved October minutes.
2. Finance: No changes this month. Carol is going to submit for the workshop she and Dave Jones recently attended at Tyler Arboretum. We have to make sure that the grant moneys are properly divided. We approved the report with the addition of one more Redtail invoice.
Administrative: Carol figured out the website glitch and got the minutes online.
Election: David Jones and David Nordheimer are on the slate. We brainstormed names of people to ask. We also brainstormed forest-friendly nominees for the vacant trustee position.
3. Current Grants/Projects
 - Buckingham Green restoration project: Access to forest from Buckingham (as opposed to coming in through fire lane) is still an issue because the developer and the state disagree about who owns the access site. Jeff Politis is going to talk to Chris Cartier to help the process to gain access through Buckingham Greene.
 - Katrina’s Grove: Few things left to plan at Katrina’s Grove.
 - 2409 Woodland. Carol brought a list of possible Rhododendrons, azaleas and pinksters to plant at that location. David Jones and Carol talked about testing the soil before investing in planting.
 - Carol discussed coming up with a proposal for invasive removal for the Schroeder bequest. We also talked about partnering with an organization (DNREC, University of Delaware, Longwood Gardens, Nature Conservancy, Delaware Center for Horticulture, Army Core of Engineers, etc.) to consult to come up with a long-range plan for preserving and improving our forests before we start spending money. David Nordheimer will come up with a draft letter to send to different organizations. This has been brought up with an eye toward transformational projects in Arden. David Jones will start researching forest management plans. David will work with Carol to find the maps to use in conjunction with our letters.
 - 5 Mill Race Road. We can’t proceed until the town has settled its issues.
 - We are monitoring 7 Mill Race Road as a possible future investment.
4. Boundaries/Encroachment
 - Fire ring in the woods in 1700 block of Green Lane. When renter left—we are trying to decide if fire ring is on the property. Linda Toman (owner) will look into it, and Jen Borders will follow through.
 - Lease Transfer at Amauck, problems of debris and cinder blocks behind the house where it bordered woods. Trustees insisted on cleanup before the transfer could go through.

5. Drainage/Erosion
 - Red Tail restoration was working at 1901 Millers is stable.
 - Carol talked to Lizzie Broadbent about drainage coming off her house toward the channel. She needs to get a splash guard to divert the water away.
 - Erosion near Threefoot property. It will eventually take the path. We need to come for a plan of how to handle it.
 - Carol and David Jones took a class at is going to a class at Arboretum on drainage and water control in the forest. They will craft a review of the workshop for the Arden Page.
6. Invasives Control
 - Discussed possibility of an ordinance to remove bamboo on the forest border if the leasehold transfers. Possibility of Schroeder funds to pay for the removal. Talked about the possibility of an ordinance to prevent the planting of bamboo.
 - Pulling Party and Restoration Site Tour. "Arden's own Grand Canyon" November 18, 10AM-12PM With light food, drink afterwards. Meet at Carol's. Jill will bring soup. Dave will bring cider. Jen will bring bread.
 - 1901 Miller's. Scheflen will pay Redtail Restoration to take out invasives along St. Martin's
7. Paths/Maintenance
 - Jen and David Nordheimer walked with Rick Rothrock and talked to him about improvements to Indian Circle. Rick has altered the firepit and created some stone benches for Indian Circle. He has yet to charge us.
 - Carol and Damon also pulled out for poison ivy away from Indian Circle in preparation for pancake breakfast.
 - Poison Ivy on the rocks at Indian Circle. Pancake Breakfast is coming up.
 - Going to ask Rick Rothrock about possible stone benches for Indian Circle.
8. Removals/Monitoring/Inventory of Trees
 - Leaning tree along path near 2409 Woodland. We are monitoring it.
 - Carol went to Lubin tree on October 25th. No changes.
 - Tree inventory is important for replacement of trees through FEMA, as per the Delaware Arborists Seminar. We would need funds for a tree inventory (grant, Schroeder funds).
9. Community Involvement and Communications
 - Dave Jones and Carol will put a review of their class for the Arden Page.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 5PM at the BWCC