

**Arden Forest Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, July 20, 2018, 5:00 PM**

**BWVC: In attendance: Jill Althouse-Wood, Carol Larson, Jeff Martin, David Nordheimer Absent: Jen Borders**

1. **Administrative:** We approved June minutes. We are trying to track volunteer hours. Dave volunteered to making a Google account and calendar for Forest Committee events with reminders.
2. **Finance:** --Jen is absent and will have a full report for us next month. Waiting on bills from Ron's Tree Service. Last receipts have been for plantings at the stone circle which came out of our grant from Schroeder Bequest.
3. **Current Grants/Projects**
  - Sherwood Restoration Project: New Castle County Conservation District is dragging out the bidding process. Need to give them a call to stop dragging the process out. We would like to begin in fall. Question of whether we need permit from Army Core of Engineers to cross the creek. Determined that the creek is non-navigable, so permitting is not needed. Question of the timeline of the grants.
  - 2409 Woodland: Carol has been monitoring, watering, mulching new plants. We need to clear out plants so that the circle is accessible and walkable. Next stage is considering masonry on the wall to keep it from deteriorating.
  - Katrina's Grove: Heidi wants to wait to plant until she rehabilitates the area where the tree came down.
4. **Boundaries/Encroachment**
  - Timeline for the fence boundaries is late fall when the ground is still penetrable, and we can get to the survey points without vegetation.
  - 5 Mill Race work is on hold because of the lawsuit against the town. It is wending its way through court.
  - Carol drove by Ravine Road neighbors. Jeff volunteered to go with Carol to visit the new neighbors.
  - 2409 Woodland has just one car parking instead of two. We are monitoring the situation.
5. **Drainage/Erosion**
  - Jeff did not go down and look at Broadbent ravine with Jeff Steen to observe the area and look for changes. He will talk to him and make a plan. David has been taking photos of the area over time. We need to check with Lizzie to see if she has done anything about the downspout.
  - Jeff Martin will try to get in touch Paul Kulesza from GPRS Inc about storm water drainage. He wants to come to town to lay eyes on the situation to give us an estimate to move forward toward a stormwater management plan.
6. **Invasives Control**
  - Three real bamboo issues that border on the woods. Properties of Mandy Tocco, Sandy Hurlong, and Lizzie Broadbent. Arden will not be issuing waivers for the

bamboo adjacent to the forest. We need to communicate this with advisory and town officers, so that the issue of a waiver doesn't circumvent the forest committee. Also the question of whether the Pendulum Funds can be used on these areas. Jill and Carol volunteered to start a conversation with Mandy about the bamboo. Carol will talk to Lizzie. Carol will investigate the bamboo at the Hurlong property which seems to be a small patch.

--David has looked into GPS mapping Apps to help us with mapping. He tried Google and various trail-making maps. The best option seems Trailmaker App. You can mark invasives with a dot on a map and photo. You end up with a map with a bunch of markers on it. David will start to walk through the woods and map it out to see if it is a viable choice. It has in-app purchases which he must investigate. We are thinking of joining with the Civic Committee to buy a GPS. We will run a test on both of our options.

7. **Paths/Maintenance**

--Carol will clear a fallen tree a path on the use of the Eagle Path.

8. **Removals/Monitoring/Inventory of Trees**

--No tree removal right now.

9. **Community Involvement and Communications**

--Jeff proposed a possible Orienteering course through the forests.

--September Arden Page: Talk about the Arden Fair booth with start of patch program and

--Jill has been working on Newsletter for non-Arden neighbors. There is a possibility of having it sent out with the Arden page for residents of the Ardens. Jill will look into pricing for the Arden Fair.

--Jeff is still working on brochure for potential Boy Scout issues.

--Jeff will work on guideline/permit for Indian Circle for website.

--Jill proposed a new Passport and Patch Program for the 2018-19 school year. This will hopefully launch at the Arden Fair. People sign up, receive a passport with several options. Complete a certain number of tasks and get an Arden Forests patch. Jill will look into cost of getting patches made. Groups of 4 or more get a small twig sapling to plant if they complete as a group.

10. **New Business**

--Discussed possibilities for trash disposal at Indian Circle. Possible a plaque to encourage trash removal.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 5PM at the BWCC**