

**Arden Forest Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 15, 2018, 5:00 PM**

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

1. **Administrative:** We approved July minutes. We are still trying to track volunteer hours.
2. **Finance:** --Jen is absent and will have a full report for us next month. We have a few bills in, from Redtail and Ron's Tree Service.
3. **Current Grants/Projects**
 - Sherwood Restoration Project: A pre-bid meeting for anyone who wants to bid on August 21st. The path needs to be “welcoming” and fairly clear. Bids are due September 5. We heard nothing from Army Core of Engineers.
 - 2409 Woodland: Carol checked pinxsterblooms (new plantings) which look good. Carol weeded.
 - Katrina's Grove: Carol got a new blueberry bush for the area but has not planted it yet.
4. **Boundaries/Encroachment**
 - Nothing on boundary and fence. That is a fall project.
 - 5 Mill Race Road. The village made a request to the plaintiff of the lawsuit. And asked to begin cleanup of the property including getting rid of the stone and the fence.
 - We are monitoring the status of 1 Mill Race. The property seems to have flagging on it. We will monitor for signs of construction.
 - Carol and Jeff did not visit the new neighbors on Ravine Road but have plans to go on Monday, August 20.
 - 2409 Woodland, the parking situation seems to be better (within legal limits).
5. **Drainage/Erosion**
 - Carol and Jeff will meet with Jeff Steen on Monday, August 20, to check the Broadbent Ravine.
 - Jeff Martin sent Paul Kulesza from GPRS Inc an email about storm water drainage. He responded, and Jeff and Carol will meet with his business manager on Monday, August 20, in Arden to show him the way the water runs through our village. They can then give us an estimate for a storm water management plan.
6. **Invasives Control**
 - Bamboo situation: Sandy Hurlong has minimal bamboo. We have to talk about it with Sandy. We should be able to take it out without problem. Carol talked to Mandy and told her that when we clear the bamboo from the forest border, she needs to keep her bamboo in check or we will have to report it. Carol will talk to Lizzie about her bamboo, which is a slower growing variety. 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. Carol talked to Ron's Tree Service who gave an estimate of taking out the bamboo at about \$700. These conversations are just the start of the process.

7. **Paths/Maintenance**

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

--Paths are muddy from rain.

--Getting Ron's Tree Service to widen the Fire Lane path since Denis O'Regan has been away and we it done sooner rather than later because of bidding on the Sherwood Restoration Project.

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

--An oak fell on Sherwood side. It is hanging near the path. Carol contacted Ron's Tree service to remove it.

--We had to take a large branch down on Yvonne Matthews's property on in Buckingham Green.

9. **Community Involvement and Communications**

--We have a full schedule of events coming up in the fall. These events (educational, social, and work) are part of an initiative to get more people invested in our forests. They will be part of the patch passport as well as helping us meet the educational requirements needed to get our National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat Certification. Jill will make event pages for each of these on Facebook.

- Friday, September 14, 5-7 PM *Weeding & Wine Happy Hour*. Come pull invasives followed by wine happy hour. Meet at entrance to The Arden Woods on Cherry Lane a.k.a Borders' House.
- Sunday, September 23 7:00-9:30 PM, *Full Moon Owl Prowl and Bonfire*. Meet at the labyrinth on the Arden Green near corner of Millers Rd and Woodland Lane. (Jill sent the appropriate permit form to the Civic Committee.)
- Saturday, September 29 at 10AM-noon, *Fall Wildflower and Pollinator Hike*. Meet at Ribletts', 2303 Orchard Road, Ardentown. Park at Ivy Gables.
- Saturday, October 27 at 11 AM. *Sherwood Forest Geology Hike*. Meet at Buzz Ware Village Center.
- Saturday, November 10 at 10AM-noon, *Fall Color Hike*. Meet at Candlelight Theater. parking lot.

--Jill finished the LEAF newsletter. We are having 750 copies printed. In addition to mailing it to 70 neighbors (outside of the Ardens) who border our forests, we are also going to distribute it with the Arden Page to all residents of the Ardens and have it available at 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. We hope to have this in place and be able to demonstrate the practice of this during our Full Moon Owl Prowl and Bonfire.

--Jill finished creating the Patch Passports for the 2018-19 school year. This will launch at the Arden Fair. People sign up, receive a passport. Complete 6 of 11 tasks listed in the passport and get an Arden Forests patch. Jill is in process of designing a passport featuring the white squirrel. Groups of 4 or more get a small twig sapling to

plant if they complete as a group. We are getting 200 passports printed for the Arden Fair. We will get more as needed.

--Elaine Schmerling came to discuss joining Ardentown and Ardencroft to get National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat Certification together (as opposed to applying as 3 separate village). We agreed this is best approach. Carol will be the liaison for Arden.

10. **New Business**

None.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 5PM at the BWCC