

Arden Forest Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 19, 2018, 5:00 PM

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

1. **Administrative:** We approved September minutes.
2. **Finance:** --We need to reach out to Ron's Tree Service because he hasn't been sending bills. We have no new expenses. Jen had some questions about expenditures against our grants (Schroder an. Community Water Quality Improvement Grant) so that she can track and reconcile our accounts.
3. **Current Grants/Projects**
 - Sherwood Restoration Project: We are waiting on permitting from DNREC. They have a 20-day public notice out that started today. Carol has been calling head of Conservation District weekly about the timeline. It has been dragging out.
 - 2409 Woodland: Weeding pinxsterblooms. We are considering remasonry and a cap for the wall for future grants.
 - Katrina's Grove: Blueberry bush and persimmons need to be planted.
4. **Boundaries/Encroachment**
 - Nothing on boundary and fence. That is a late fall project. Waiting for leaves to come down.
 - 5 Mill Race Road. The lawsuit is still working its way through the system.
 - 2409 Woodland: Parking is still an issue.
 - 1, 2 Mill Race sold. No permits are issued on this.
 - Carol and Jeff did not visit the new neighbors on Ravine Road.
 - We found a campsite in the Sherwood Forest. We determined it was Dave Yoder. Carol talked to him and he took the site down, but it still needs to be returned to a more natural state. He still has tools and stacked woods there.
5. **Drainage/Erosion**
 - Carol and Jeff walked down to the stream near the Broadbent leasehold with Jeff Steen. They took note of the delta in the middle of Naaman's which indicates erosion. We will continue monitor this peninsula as well as the ravines in the area. Jeff Steen's advice to help the water flow was to add more riprap under discharge pipes and along stormwater ravines between Mandy Tocco's leasehold and the Founder's House and also at the discharge from the Broadbent trench drain into the ravine. He also suggested getting rid of macadam curbing alongside streets.
 - Jeff Martin, Carol and Jeff Steen met with Rhett Tayler from GPRS Inc on August 20. The estimate to map the stormwater is about \$17,000. Carol talked to NCC special services about what mapping they already have. Where are the catch basins? She got two names to call within DNREC and DelDot. This could be part of a stormwater planning grant. We will ask Jeff Martin and Jeff Steen to write something for the town for when we approach them to get matching funds for our grants.
 - We bounced off ideas about a pilot project (in conjunction with Civic and Community Planning) for permeable paving in troublesome spots such as near Mill and Millers.

6. **Invasives Control**

--Arden voted to restrict glyphosate on the greens, but we maintain use for it in the forest.

--Mark Wood removed a bunch of small invasive Japanese Maples. We need to consider what trees we could plant to replace them in the understory.

--Discussed possibility of using Goats. One solution is Green Grazer Goats who will clear at \$900/acre. They have done work at Sanford School.

--The Emerald Ash Borer is now in Middletown, DE, but we haven't found any on our traps. We have to figure out a plan. We are thinking of removing a small ash tree and doing an autopsy looking for traces of Emerald Ash Borer.

--We are assessing the bamboo challenge areas. We are prioritizing the area behind Mandy Tocco's leasehold.

7. **Paths/Maintenance**

--Think about bridges in Sherwood Forest on the Perkins Run path. Some channels are getting harder to cross.

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

--Carol checked on the oak tree near the Lubin property. Carol wants to hire the certified Arborist who worked on the Fels Oak for \$225. We need when to find out when the last assessment was done.

9. **Community Involvement and Communications**

--Talk about having some informational talks in Spring about lawn/garden sale. Jill will reach out to Gardeners Guild.

--We had a Fall Wildflower and Pollinator Hike in September. Our Full Moon Owl Prowl and Bonfire was postponed due to rain. We are talking about doing it in the winter when the leaves are down.

--More 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. Jeff made an event page for Geology Hike on Facebook. Jill will make an event pages for the color hike.

- Saturday, October 27 at 11 AM. *Sherwood Forest Geology Hike*. Meet at Buzz Ware Village Center.
- Saturday, November 10 at 10 AM *Fall Color Hike*. Meet at Candlelight Theater Parking Lot.

November Arden Page— Ask Jeff to write a composting piece for the page. Jill will put out a call to schedule for Ivy Party and make a note of change of meeting time for next month.

Carol will talk to Dela Bryant about scheduling a late fall ivy pull.

10. **New Business**

The question of harvesting mushrooms out of the forest has come up because someone has been taking mushrooms and selling them online. Carol will reach out to the Ardencrofter who posted on Facebook to ask that he only take enough for personal use. We don't want to encourage people taking things out of the woods and especially not for profit.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 5PM at the BWVC