

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

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

**Absent: Jeff Martin and David Nordheimer Meeting called to order at 5:10 PM**

1. **Administrative:** We approved January minutes.
2. **Finance:** --Jen presented the report. See excel report. We need Redtail to finish their contract work.
3. **Current Grants/Projects**
  - Sherwood Restoration Project: Bids are coming through, and they are higher than expected. The NCCD (New Castle Conservation District) process requires we open the bid, and we are trying to reduce costs by taking on some of the pathway work ourselves. We need to get specifications on what they want us to do and get estimates of the plants we will be responsible for. The NCCD will open the bids to a larger field. We will try to get project done by mid-May. If not, we need an extension. A representative from the NCCD says they have \$20,000 to add to the project. We need to get specifics on that money as well.
    - Toby Ridings is interested in taking the photos of the area but wants Carol to take her out and show her where we need photos.
    - Carol talked to Kristen Travers from Delaware Nature Society who will train a core group of people at Ashland nature Center on water quality monitoring, and then Kristen will come to Arden and train a larger group/families.
    - 2409 Woodland: We are waiting for the weather to get better to repair the wall. We need to work on accessibility. We discussed the possibilities of a handrail. We are feeling the need to get the Sherwood Restoration moved forward before we move forward on a handrail.
4. **Boundaries/Encroachment**
  - Carol talked to Dave Claney about the fence. Need to set a time to do it. Try to do between the end of the fiscal year or at the very least, buy materials.
  - 5 Mill Race Road. Carol drove by. Lots of invasive plants to address once the lawsuit is settled.
5. **Drainage/Erosion**
  - Drew Hayes from Foresite went to Community Planning and had a master water plan discussion. The meeting was attended by Forest, Safety, Civic committee chairs as well. We are looking into matching grant possibilities.
  - Lubins put a new drain that goes into the forest. It seems to be waste water from inside the house.
6. **Invasives Control**
  - Lizzie Broadbent called Carol about bamboo removal.
7. **Paths/Maintenance**
  - Nothing to report. Paths are very muddy in winter.
8. **Removals/Monitoring/Inventory of Trees**

--Carol had an arborist look at the Lupin tree and she had him prune some large branches. TARQ assessment is that the oak is healthy. We came up with a maintenance plan of having this professionally tree assessed every three years.  
--We have a beech tree near Buckingham Green that needs to come down.

9. **Community Involvement and Communications**

--Doug Tallamy lecture, Monday the 22. Pairing with Gardener's Gild. Jill had postcards and posters made for publicity. She will work with Jeana Carey and Gerri Konzleman on distribution. Press release to DNS, Mount Cuba. Will get press list from Ron. Jen will invite Highland Orchards to sell natives at the lecture.

--Other events for the Earth Day/Arbor celebration week —Fire Singalong of Wednesday, April 24. Jill got permits. Jeff will organize. Planting/Ivy pull in Sherwood on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 10AM.

Jill will make a list for next meeting of what jobs we need to do for "Earth Week"

--Jill wrote and is getting ready to distribute a spring issue of LEAF which is going out to neighborhoods and with Arden Page.

--March Arden Page—Sending out LEAF with the page.

-- Christina Watershed Cleanup Saturday, April 6, 9 AM-12 PM

--Carol talked to Lori Athey at Delaware Nature Society. Timeline for talking to them about Wildlife Habitat Certification is late spring after their plant sales.

10. **New Business**

--Thinking about purchasing GPS unit or water monitoring equipment for the Forest Committee.

--In December we reapplied for Tree City USA.

--We need an upgraded tree stewardship policy.

**Meeting adjourned 6:25 PM**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 5PM at the BWVC**