

**Arden Forest Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 7:00 PM**

**Via Zoom: In attendance : Carol Larson, Jen Borders, David Jones, Jeff Martin. Jill Althouse Wood. Visitor: Bev Clendening. Meeting called to order 7:02 PM**

1. **Administrative:** We approved September minutes with corrections.
  - Cecelia posted the Fire Permit to arden.delaware.gov. Corrections need to be made, before Cecelia can make it interactive. Committee members will review. Send info to Carol to collate for Cecelia
  - Bev Clendening voted in at Town meeting. Jeff is officially replaced
  - Please update volunteer hours for the last month. Sorting by active vs. administrative Confirm definition of “administrative” with non-profit standards <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MwKXYyulr2fxEVwli-Qj97sgXKGPPJ2a/view?usp=sharing>
2. **Finance:** Carol has a receipt to submit for ash treatments. Jill submitted receipt for the Arden Patch. Ron has \$3000 plus another tree to submit. Budget is tapped. Reduced Red Tail hours to 9 hours more \$333. Original contract 67.5 hours for \$2500. Used 17.5 to date leaving 50 hours - \$1850. Discuss more funding. Lawsuit settled – Schroeder?
3. **Current Grants/Projects**
  - Sherwood Restoration Project: Carol is done with readings. Carol has been data crunching- Graphing to do. Foresite will be doing a final report.
  - Dave Jones: vertebrate or invertebrate count. New observations on Saturday. We will test out new monitoring meter. --We purchased Hanna water quality meters. Conductivity TDS, pH.
  - 2409 Woodland: not a priority. Weeding the pinxterblooms needed. Jen, Bev and Carol weeded 9/12 after rock loading 11:00. Pulled stilt grass. We took out a bunch of mile-a minute. Need to monitor in the spring. Clear around Pinxters
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  - End of Hillside/Sherwood Forest planting circles: On hold Jill took pictures of the circles last month. Jill will look into Facebook or a Google website to see if there is a place she can post the photos so we have reference. Can we get a gmail account for the Arden Forest Committee?
  - Surface Water Management: Checked condition of Rain Garden at Woodland and Green. Results of research of establishment of Rain Garden on Green. Contact Bev Barnett and Mariane Cinaglia if excess flow is an issue.
- 4 **Boundaries/Encroachment**
  - Carol and Jeff Politis met with Sunset Farms neighbors 9/10 at 6:30 at the Buzz to discuss fence and restoration. We assessed the dumping at Sunset Farms which was worse than we thought. Neighbors want to meet with committee – is this necessary if we tell them we aren’t putting up the fence unless we see more dumping? Committee is wary of leaving an opening because of dumping. Order of work on Sunset Farms:  
Use remaining Redtail for invasive work at Sunset Farms, Claney to put in fence and mulch. Volunteers to plant. Ask for Contingency access first, Schroeder second, reduce Redtail contract third.

--Christine and Don Montgomery at 2033 Marsh Road. They have a pipe draining into woods. Carol needs to talk to them. The Lubins removed the pipe that was closer to the woods

5. **Drainage/Erosion**

--Jill will talk to Dave Nordheimer to continue to monitor erosion at Broadbent. Jill will ask him to take a photo from a stake point. There was an oak down on the garage. Carol checked out the bamboo in the gully. We need to get rid of it next on our list.

6. **Invasive Species Control**

--On hold: Jill talked to Larry Strange about drone video and 360 photography to map the ivy. He is talking about winter.

Bev looked into iMap invasives. Delaware is now part of the cooperative. Bev signed up and is working to use the program.

--SLF report: Elaine and Carol treated Styxax in Arden to reduce population since SLF is attracted to styxax. Traps around Buzz on maples may reduce population headed for the woods.

Carol retreated the Jap knotweed patches Cordivano leaseholds and at the Highway trailhead as well as leasehold across from Gild Hall. Dieback pretty good. New patch found at Founders house. Liz Ryan said she would treat it. Monitor for tx next year

--Still checking/keeping tabs on deer population and fox with mange. (Jill) We had a conversation about deer control. Needs to be resolved. The State Forester will be giving us a forest plan that mentions the lack of an understory – this is because of deer and will give us a mandate to act in the face of opposition.

7. **Paths/Maintenance**

-On Hold: Bicycle path through Sherwood Forest from Hillside to Marsh road. We will investigate possible surfaces. Crusher Run. Dave looked into prices and surfaces.

--Sherwood Forest Bridge: Dave needs to go back and remeasure and count boards. Dave will get specs for lumber order. The project may have to wait for next budget round.

--We need to retrieve a bridge from where it washed away downstream. We need 4-6 people. Checked weight when weeding at 2409 Woodland.

-- trunk still across the path near Bev's house? Very rotted and large. Needs a chain saw. Cut a step in the beech?

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

---5 Mill Race Road—Oak came down from the Mill Race property. No bill from Ron. Requested bill from Ron.

--Are we having a problem with oaks? Lots of them coming down. It is getting wetter. Carol met with Bill Seybold from DE Forest Service. No definitive diagnosis but compaction from paths in the root zone can be an issue. A Forest Management plan was requested from the DE Forest Service Jim Dobson (302) 653-6505 who came out week of 10/7

9. **Community Involvement and Communications**

--Buzz Ware will certified as a habitat. Responsibility for exterior of Buzz is Civic responsibility. Carol will talk to Civic about certifying.

--Jill started the process of certification for the Ardens. The Gardeners Guild is going to be a part and possibly pay for the certification.

October page entry: Mill Race Road work or Sunset Farms work.

10. **New Business**

**Meeting adjourned 8:56 PM. Next meeting is Wednesday, November 11 at 7 PM.**