

Arden Forest Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 7:00 PM

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

1. **Administrative:** We approved August minutes with corrections.
 - Cecelia posted the Fire Permit to arden.delaware.gov. Corrections need to be made. Committee members will review. Send info to Carol to collate for Cecelia
 - 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. Inquiries about contingency fund access and reducing Red Tail hours. Also discuss availability of Schroeder funds in lieu of lawsuit.
3. **Current Grants/Projects**
 - Sherwood Restoration Project: Carol is done with readings. Now Carol has data crunching and graphing to do. Foresite will be doing a final report. A gap opened in one of the dams. We need to load rock. Dave and Carol to check area 9/12. Date for Rock moving 9-20 at 2:00. Bring wheel barrows.
 - Dave Jones: vertebrate or invertebrate count. Will collect new observations on Saturday 9/12 at 10:00 am. 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 and Bev said they would weed 9/12 at 11:00. Others may join. We can go evaluate the bridge that was moved by stormwater also.
 - 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: Did a walkthrough with Foresite and Steve Benigni on August 13 at 9:30 AM. Water quality plan forthcoming. Committee discussed interventions for water management. Will check condition of Rain Garden at Woodland and Green. 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 will meet with Sunset Farms neighbors 9/10 at 6:30 at the Buzz to discuss fence and restoration. Jeff M suggested a neighborly opening in the fence. Committee is wary of leaving an opening because of dumping. We applied for Schroeder Funds. Discussion at Advisory Committee 9/9/20 about compromising the lawsuit with Carol DiGiovanni if we access funds. Jen suggested putting the decision back to Officers. Jeff M suggested doing the project in stages to conserve the budget. Expenditures are necessary after fence placement to keep the grass from overgrowing since the neighbors won't be mowing it. Order of work on Sunset Farms:

Use 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 also have a drain to the woods. Carol has not reported them to the county. Carol will check it out. --ONGOING

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 Styrax in Arden to reduce population since SLF is attracted to styrax. Traps around Buzz on maples may reduce population headed for the woods.

Carol treated the Jap knotweed patches at Bryan and Cordivano leaseholds and at the Highway trailhead. Waiting for dieback.

--Still checking/keeping tabs on deer population and fox with mange. (Jill)

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.

--Oak tree cleared on the Fire Lane and Indian Circle. Dave Reese volunteered for Fire Lane. Dave Jones suggested cutting back more near Indian Circle for safety sake. Bev said she would take a look.

--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. Will check weight when weeding at 2409 Woodland.

--A trunk across the path near Bev's house. Very rotted and large. Needs a chain saw.

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

---5 Mill Race Road—A big tree came down from the Mill Race property. Trying to get money back from DelDot for clearing Mill Race Road. But the neighbor on the other side is splitting cost of clearing the top of the tree from their driveway. 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

9. **Community Involvement and Communications**

--Buzz Ware certified as a habitat. Responsibility for exterior of Buzz is Civic responsibility. Carol will talk to Civic in October about certifying. Ongoing: Dave and Jill will go see what needs to be done.

--Jill is looking into certification for the Ardens. The Gardeners Gild is going to be a part and possibly pay for the certification.

--Jill delivered patches for the 2020 patch program. 21 people earned a patch for this year, but we are talking about giving the patch to the Spotted Lantern Fly Task Force.

October page entry: Leave your leaves! Good for fireflies.

10. **New Business**

Jeff Martin will leave Arden in November. We will recommend Bev Clendening to take his place. Town Assembly will be October 5 and Jeff will remain until Bev is approved.

Meeting adjourned 8:56 PM. Next meeting is Wednesday, October 14 at 7 PM.