

Arden Forest Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 13, 5:00 PM

Via Zoom: In attendance: Carol Larson, Jen Borders, Jill Althouse-Wood, Bev Clendening.

Meeting called to 5:05 order PM

1. **Administrative:** We approved December minutes. Minor changes

-- We are still editing the Fire Permit to arden.delaware.gov. Jen is looking into it.

--Please update volunteer hours for the last month. Ongoing effort

SLATE: Margot Al-taweel, Simon Hamermesh, Ed Rohrbach, Jeff Steen, Chris Junk, Jill Moncarz Csongor & Shana Pinter Younger people to ask: Dani or Rob Munroe, Michelle Lauer. Keri del Tufo (Jill) Drew Jordan

2. **Finance:** The report is still being updated with recent charges.

3. **Current Grants/Projects**

—2409 Woodland: Some Mile-a-minute we have to watch. not a priority.

--End of Hillside/Sherwood Forest planting circles: Leannan present to Forest Committee in February!

-- Surface Water Management: Drew Hayes presentation at Town meeting

4. **Boundaries/Encroachment**

--Sunset Farms: We planted and mulched. Carol and Damon did some invasive removal so we can see water damage. Watch the hole to see if it is filling in: photograph Carol put more plants to put in. We voted to put the fence in.

--Carol will talk to DNREC Debris Pit about the water direction.

-- Variance request by 10 Sunset Ct was approved in spite of objections by the committee and Arden. Jen, Carol, Bev, Jeff Politis, Elizabeth Varley represented our interests at the hearing. We learned a lot and will hopefully use the information for future appeals. We need to document the erosion. **Past appeal: need to talk to representatives about respecting the woods edge and how we were treated as a community at the hearing Politis. Talk to NCC Land Use. Why did Cartier say it was a state issue?**

--Carol found another a pipe into woods from 4 Sunset Court which we need to report. Checked this – it's within 5 feet of boundary (barely). Found more pipes in Buckingham Greene. Check with NCC about Violation. Chris Yasik.

--Christine and Don Montgomery at 2033 Marsh Road. They have a pipe draining into woods. Carol needs to talk to them.

5. **Drainage/Erosion**

--Jill texted Dave Nordheimer to continue to monitor erosion at Broadbent. Jill will ask him to take a photo from a stake point. He reports that some erosion happening above the stream bank new Stream north of Woodland will cause erosion. Sue Rothrock reported erosion upstream from Woodland also from the rain garden. Need to investigate both places. Bev will take pictures

Path upstream from Broadbent washing out. Need to reroute path?

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 iNaturalist to map our invasives. Established a document on iNaturalist. Jill will put in page.

--SLF report: We need to take down traps. Bev will take down the ones on Miller/Marsh. Monitor whether the traps traps are damaging the trees.

-- Discussed deer population control. We need to get buy-in from Hanby if we are going to hunt. The county is willing to help. Need to prepare Arden for possibility of population control by State Forester so we can preserve our understory. Experiments with Deer fencing. Bev developing a Power Point about deer problems. Jen suggested another event not Town Meeting. Already in page in December. Research Hanby and Sunnyside. Items for social media.

6. Paths/Maintenance

--Sherwood Bridge project on hold due to budget constraints. **Need a map for future boardwalks over wettest area.**

--We need to retrieve a bridge from where it washed away downstream. We need 4-6 people. Jeffrey Jackson Hank Skip Mark? Claney. Folks to hire. After Covid? Tomorrow afternoon to make it safer. Call Cropper?

7. Removals/Monitoring/Inventory of Trees

--Oak behind Dela Bryan that is uprooting. Carol went over with an arborist. It is not imminently risky. We will wait until the spring. Mary Stevenson has two dead beeches that are hazardous. Discussed with Ron. Contingency fund?

8. Community Involvement and Communications

EARTH DAY!! Pending Covid Virtual Earth Day? Wine in the Woods outdoor Covid safe

--Three January woods cleanups, one in each of the Ardens, on Thursdays. Arden: Jan 21, 1-3

--Buzz Ware will be certified as a habitat. Responsibility for exterior of Buzz is Civic responsibility. Carol will talk to Civic about certifying. (Civic meeting 4th Wednesday January)

--We are well under way process of certification for the Ardens for Community Wildlife Habitat. The Gardeners Guild is going to be a part and possibly pay for the certification.

--New LEAF went out end of December. Reception was great! Grant for paper hard copy again? Postcard to direct to online copy? References to the online copy, put up individual pages? Jill will strategize how to make it more prominent.

--Adding Deer articles on social media 1) Traffic accidents 2) hurt the environment 3) Deer Ticks 4) Deer suffering starvation

--February Page: i Naturalist, celandine never went away this year.

10. New Business

--Community Planning is working on a new guidance policy. Each committee will have tasks for future update long term documents – Forest Stewardship Policy.

--We need consistent water quality testing. How often? Monthly? After big storms. Bev will do Naaman's side with a new kit. Carol has Marianne's data to scan. Dave is best at identifying macroinvertebrates. Bev will contact Will Ryan for contacts for biologists. Bev will try and contact Ashley Kennedy regarding student contacts, also.

--Research on Plant Inventory. Who to use and how much?

Meeting adjourned 6:29 pm. Next meeting is Wednesday, February 10 at 5 PM.

Actionable items

-Jen is working on changes to fire permit.

-Bev will check the Board of Adjustments in the Sunday Paper.

-Jill will talk to Dave Nordheimer about taking photos of erosion at Broadbent.

-Where does the mail go for the Forest Committee? Jill will ask Liz Resko.

-Get forest committee email forwarded to Carol's email.

-Carol will check out pipes going into woods, report

-Volunteer HOURS!!!! <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MwKXYyulr2fxEVwli-Qj97sgXKGPPJ2a/view?usp=sharing>

-Carol will send Jen her spending for Sunset Farms rehab.

--Dave Jones, do water testing/invertebrate count

--Bev will do readings on the water new test kit.

--Jill—take pictures of the circles in Sherwood **Leannan 302 332-3256**

--Jill working on LEAF

--Jill Arden Page

--Everyone, deer articles on Social media

--Jill—Working on Town certification

--Jill Talk to Dave Nordheimer about erosion at Broadbent leasehold.

--Carol will follow-up to DNREC Debris Pit about the erosion.

--**Bev set up iNaturalist** Some entries already

--**Need to get bridge that was washed downstream—ORGANIZE** Jeff and Jackson Politis Clancy? Who is Strong? Set up banks – do we need supports?

--**Jen will announce work party at Arden. Double check with Elaine**

Priorities

Deer control: Power point for Town Meeting? When will we make a motion? Bev. Articles in the Page, social media. Announce at Town Meeting.

New Plant Inventory (good for grant data)

Data collection for creeks also good for grants

Soggy paths – bridge brigade – MOVE BRIDGE need a crew. Rich Cropper?

Nursery for plants Live stakes. map where to put live stakes.

Carol: scan Marianne Cinaglia's old data.