

Arden Forest Committee Meeting Monday, March 21, 2022, 5:00 PM:

In attendance: Carol Larson, Bev Clendening, Dave Jones, visiting: Eric Reed Called to order

5:05 PM Jill Althouse Wood, Keri del Tufo CORRECTIONS NEEDED

1. **Administrative:** --We approved February minutes with changes. Please update volunteer hours for the last month.
2. **Finance:** No new costs. Bill for Ash treatments pending. Red Tail bill 1301.86, Labare 1400 North Creek (\$850 needs itemizing) Chemicals for lesser celandine \$161
Buy plants for DISC grant, purchase chemicals for lesser celandine. Purchase lumber for bridges.
3. **Current/New Grants/Projects** —DISC Grant approved \$750. Ivy removal progress, Fence pending, signage needed to explain project to passers-by.
4. **Boundaries/Encroachment** . --Sunset Farms: Fence partially installed. We are going to put on the line. Jeff Politis offered to rent an auger to help dig holes. Volunteers proposed for March date: Skip, Politis, Mark Wood, Joey? Looking for specific able-bodied volunteers.
5. **Drainage/Erosion** – Volunteer work from Master stormwater plan Watershed A. Planting in Fire Lane/Stevenson area – part of the Storm water plan –
Try live stakes in eroded areas: red twig dogwood stakes, willow stakes.
Storm Water Management Plan: Final billing submitted and disbursed to the state. ARPA money can match state DNREC funds, but we're required to work with the New Castle Conservation District to implement projects. Eric Reed looking over grant application for SWMPG and CWQIG
Drew Hayes suggested a mass pervious paving fund for leaseholders might be funded by grant.
6. **Invasive Species Control** –Work continues at the Cherry Lane trailhead as written in DISC Grant on successive Tuesdays. WE NEED SIGNAGE
Deer population control: repair fishing line to protect areas with *Euonymus americana*.
Red Tail work: Ground ivy behind Ozer O'Regan. .
7. **Paths/Maintenance** --Soggy paths. Strategies: tree cookies, Aerate, Boardwalk. – MONKEY BALLS
Fixed Broken bridge in Sherwood. Waiting for receipts from Simon who ran the show
Idea: Try out monkey balls in the muddy areas- might firm up the mud. Bev and Lisa Wolfe used them in their quad. Steve Benigni had bags full.
Make cookies for muddy spots. Tree cookies available from cut Locust tree on Wind Lane.
Eroded spot behind Politis – reroute path with chips or cookies away from creek edge
8. **Removals/Monitoring/Inventory of Trees** -. Trees to monitor: Dela Bryan's oak, Politis poplar, -Beech with crack behind Founder's Cottage Lubin Oak: Contacted Certified arborist to prune tree. Work finished
9. **Community Involvement/Communications Arden Page:** IVY FESTIVAL/Clean up
Jill attended a lecture from NWF. -- Certified Wildlife Habitat update
Volunteer report: NOBODY came out after one announcement in the page. FB essential.
April page: End of April -Arbor Day and Earth Day. Future ongoing: Tree Champions, one per month. Fels oak in March- other candidates?
10. **New Business** --
New Ivy Festival ideas ARDEN MUD MEN. crayons to color leaf ID pictures, tug-of-war (ACRA rope), block printing for wrapping paper leaf patterns. Pine cone gnomes. Other games? Corn hole?
Spring edition of LEAF: Jill asked for submissions.
Meeting adjourned PM. Next meeting is Monday, April 18 at 5 PM.