

## Arden Forest Committee Meeting Agenda December 12, 2022, 6:00 PM

In attendance Carol Larson, Bev Clendening, Eric Reed, Lisa Wolfe, Keri Del Tufo.. Call to order 6:10

### 1. **Admin:** Approved October and November minutes with changes

Election slate ideas needed for January Town meeting. Action: develop a list of candidates. Carol and Lisa running, Keri is hesitant unless we are short a candidate in January. Suggestions: Stevie Nolan, Susan Stith, Maureen Gordon, Simon Hamermesh.

Update volunteer hours for the last month or tell Bev.

Discussion of **Forest Stewardship Policy**. Google Doc online. tabled

**2. Finance:** New billing from Red Tail. \$129.50 Expenses for Campfire printing and supplies donated by committee

**3. Current/New Grants/Projects** — DISC Grant: Bev and Lisa renewed fishing line, check on deer prints and foraging. Inventory of plants and damage by Bev. Carol sent signage to Keri

ARPA: SWMPG grant proposal accepted – Purchase order came through November 18. Surveying started

U&CF Tree Grant: Due 3/3/23 must have site visit. Up to \$5000, need to match it. Will apply if Civic submits a grant

Arden Species inventory. Will Ryan / Janet Ebert. Cost \$10,000. **No new info.** Suggestions that expense could be reduced if we used past info and limited sampling. Put need for inventory in LEAF or Page to build support for \$\$

2023 DISC Grant: Deadline January 31. Bev and Eric will plan on a grant for comparing pachysandra removal methods

**4. Boundaries/Encroachment** . – Sunset Farms – suggestion to leave it alone until spring. Keep up with younger plants – mugwort, hops are aggressive. Action: check area in March, schedule removals of aggressive plants.

**5. Drainage/Erosion** . Planting –needed in Fire Lane adjacent area: planting advised in Master Water Plan. Live stakes in eroded areas: red twig dogwood stakes, willow stakes. February at bud break.

**6. Invasive Species Control** –Deer population control: areas with *Euonymus americana*. We need better supports and more fishing line – Lisa monitoring area near her house. Areas in Sherwood could use some protection

Redo areas on Upper Hillside pathway and Politis – T-posts with lots of fish line wrapping

Discuss areas for Red Tail contract. Steve Nolan's pachysandra and ivy behind Theis  
Continue group work: ivy/burning bush, deseeding

Group work areas: Nolan house at 1613 Green Lane. Ivy trees. Also behind Bill Theis and Jester/Somerville

We need to identify plants for residents so they can be confident doing work on their own – Red paint on twigs or tape with plant labels

**7. Paths/Maintenance** Bridges not as slippery but upstream from Woodland Lane bridge is getting mossy.. Monitor and clean Paint with sand in April

Improve path signs: Walk this Way to redirect past Creekside collapse

Grants available ORPT for paths. Should develop grants to be ready for cycle next round due June 2023. Discussed replacing Hillside Pool path and removing Macadam patches. Must replace with something – research.

Accessible area walkway– Woodland to Indian Circle. “Circle (wall) to (Indian)Circle path” accessible. Committee thought it too intrusive. Perhaps a viewing platform in the woods with access.

Action: Research design and cost and reference Ardencroft boardwalk.

Path improvements and maintenance: Lisa had a Mt. Cuba instructor who worked on Trails in National Parks. She will inquire

Steps down to Indian Circle need infill – too compacted. No consensus about how to manage this. Research. Also, tree cookies have broken down and are not functional

**8. Removals/Monitoring/Inventory of Trees** - No new action. Be on the lookout for hazard trees along woods edge.

Ridings dead oak – Their hangers to be done winter – Ron is waiting for a part for his lift.

### **9. Community Involvement/Communications/Arden Page**

Discussed Campfire event and improvements – committee thinks annual frequency is preferable. Scary stories and new musicians are possibilities. Keri suggested more lanterns to carry. Larger tables. Kids sing along 6-7, adults 7-8

**LEAF:** Lisa sent a list of potential stories, recurring events, books to read, available support for leaseholders. Asked for input. Edge habitat description for leaseholds on Forest Border.

Sign for Tree City to put up. Wayne Knotts put up sign at the Harvey Marsh intersection.

Events: **EARTH DAY** is a Saturday! April 22. Same day as the Christina/Naamans Watershed Clean up.

Discussed in person clean-up with coffee and donuts meeting prior to going out to woods assignments

**PAGE** in December. Article about “walk this Way” signage possible: Advertise an “Invasive plant check-up”

**Flyer** with Land Rent mailing: Best practices for woods edge maintenance. Forest committee needs support even if it's simply to report activity in the woods – eyes and ears for the committee.

**10. Old Business** – Veolia at Mill Race. Restoration list of trees, shrubs and seeds. We will do labor to get more plants. Eliminate area as a factor for adding plants.

**11. New Business:** Glyphosate defense for January. Carol will send old documents defending use of glyphosate.

Survey for community planning filled out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. Next meeting is Monday, January 9 at 6