

Arden Forest Committee Meeting MINUTES Friday, May 8, 2023, 6:00 PM Call to order: 6:04 pm

In attendance Carol Larson, Eric Reed, Lisa Wolfe, Jess Colgan Snyder. Absent: Bev Clendenning

Admin: April minutes approved

Discussion of **Forest Stewardship Policy**. Google Docs. Bev shared the text at GTF meeting that includes pesticide policy in preparation for possible presentation at TA. GTF (Governance Task Force)

2. Finance: Eric Reed agreed to continue budget spreadsheet

3. Current/New Grants/Projects — DISC Grant: Monitor plant progress – fence repairs – stronger 40 lb line Run a line to support the top of the netting suggested. Bev and Carol to inspect prior to Gardener's Gild event on Monday May 15. Bev scheduled to check lines 5/10. Decision not to repair fishing line enclosure.

4. Boundaries/Encroachment . – Sunset Farms – aggressive mugwort, garlic mustard. Plantings to be improved, discussed seed bank and seedlings.

5. Drainage/Erosion . Planting in Fire Lane adjacent area: Red maple planted and stakes put in. Naamans banks: Eric Reed reported that stakes have leaves! We need to clear blockage in Naamans.

6. Invasive Species Control –Deer population control: areas with *Euonymus americana*. Barriers along upper path near Hillside- Bev (with Skip) working to reroute path and erect deer barriers to save *E. americana* patch.

- Ongoing Group work: GARLIC MUSTARD: Areas behind Munroe and O'Neill and Sunset Farms. We put some in black plastic bags to solarize seed (140 degrees!) Trying blacktop area behind Buzz for sun and heat.
- Elaine reports that basal bark spray of burning bush shrub was not efficient
- Celandine spraying: Red Tail: Marsh and Millers, Hillside. Carol Highway Trail head, Mill Race, Marsh & Millers
- Identifying / labeling invasives for residents who want to work on their land. No new requests.

Carol requested a new contract from RedTail. They come at our request up to \$2000.

7. Paths and Bridges/Maintenance

Path improvements: chips from Ron at north Hillside trailhead. Cecilia and Jill Moncarz moving some chips Skip and Bex cut large log for upper path. Heavy rain washed out tree cookies on upper path.

Lisa and Bev placed monkeyballs, Ruth Panella in places (1 hour) and Neal Ann Stevens

Hillside Pool path: Keep brick for now, remove Macadam patches: Bev placed rocks fill in around Macadam patches Steps down to Indian Circle need infill – too compacted and not level – on hold – winter work November.

Seating opportunities : reminder to look for appropriate logs to cut and place.

Bridges: Tom Van Duyne, neighbor, has a new bridge on upper Hillside path almost ready for installation.

8. Removals/Monitoring/Inventory of Trees Poplar and ash behind Politis – lean. Tree off Sherwood Green development to check - Hutt

Ash trees declining watch behind Clendenning for leaf-out

9. Community Involvement/Communications/Arden Page

LEAF: Input regarding the newsletter. No comments from public – need a soft launch spring edition

EARTH DAY/ WOODS CLEAN UP Saturday April 22. John Demsey won raffle. 57 participants in the three Ardens Arbor Day celebration: Planted a dogwood for Arbor Day at the Buzz on April 30 (rain date)

COMMUNITY CAMPFIRE scheduled in October

PAGE in June: Page Deadline is May 26 Move chip pile for Trails. Cecilia complained about monkeyballs

Gardeners Gild, May 15 discussion: Tour of the DISC site – Invasive removal techniques. Park at Gild/Walk to DISC or meet at Candlelight 6:00 pm. Check with Hajni.

10. Old Business – Veolia at Mill Race. Carol spoke to Emily Guillen and told her we'd wait for next season to make order. Nurseries have less availability now. Forest will work with Veolia directly.

Next meeting Monday, June 12, 2023. 6:00 pm