

## **Arden Forest Committee Meeting minutes Monday, June 12, 2023, 6:00 PM** Call to order: 6:10 pm

In attendance Carol Larson, Eric Reed, Lisa Wolfe. Bev Clendening. Absent: Jess Colgan-Snyder. Visitor: Jeff Steen

**Admin:** May minutes pending approval

**Forest Stewardship Policy.** Bev announced at Governance Task Force meeting that the Forest Committee is working on a revision of the Forest Stewardship Policy that includes pesticide policy in preparation for possible presentation at September TA.

Jeff Steen dropped off his edits for the policy. We will compare to the current draft and include input.

**2. Finance:** New expenses to Eric. Lisa had receipts for supplies: Earth Day event and printing LEAF

**3. Current/New Grants/Projects** — DISC Grant: Fence repairs – the line to support the top of the netting worked well. Need to finish the back side. Monitor plant survival and regeneration quarterly. Taking down fishing line.

**4. Boundaries/Encroachment** . – Sunset Farms –need to check invasive growth. Mugwort, 1st year Garlic mustard Japanese hops. Plantings to be improved, seed bank and seedlings in fall.

**5. Drainage/Erosion** . Planting in Fire Lane adjacent area: Red maples and shrubs to plant. Fall.

Naamans banks: Eric reported stakes have leaves we need to see how the drought has affected them

Blockage caused by a downed tree on the edge of Naamans cleared,. Water flowing after rain, improved the back-up on the trail and in Ardentown leasehold.

**6. Invasive Species Control** –Deer population control: areas with *Euonymus americana*. Barriers along upper path near Hillside- Bev working to reroute path and to eventually erect deer barriers to save *E. americana* patch. Discussion of how to attach to trees. Eyelets rather than girdling lines.

- Ongoing Group work: Jetbead, 1<sup>st</sup> year GARLIC MUSTARD: Areas behind Munroe and O’Neill and Sunset Farms.
- Elaine reports that basal bark spray of burning bush shrub was not efficient
- 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. No answer yet

## **7. Paths and Bridges/Maintenance**

Path improvements: Rain! Check for wet spots!

Upper path work- chips?. Heavy rain washed out tree cookies on upper path. Discussion of using rebar to keep the cookies in place: Need to review how to keep folks on the path when it gets muddy. Discussion of board walks and how to keep them in place. Cecilia and Jill Moncarz moving some chips

Hillside Pool path: Bev placed rocks fill in around Macadam patches

Bridges: Tom Van Duyne, placed bridge near Hillside. Any new bridge locations?

**8. Removals/Monitoring/Inventory of Trees** Poplar behind Politis – lean. \$3000 removal from Ron. Oak also – may be Politis leasehold responsibility , checking boundary

Ash trees declining behind Clendening. Leaf out- one is in better shape Carol treating ashes in forest – charge for chemical

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

- **LEAF:** New edition for June Town Assembly. 2 page “leaflet” whet the appetite discussion of QR code use
- **EARTH DAY/ WOODS CLEAN UP wrap up** John Demsey won raffle then donated hour Marianne Cinaglia 5/13
- **COMMUNITY CAMPFIRE** October 27<sup>th</sup> Friday night. Full Moon, Coordinate with ACRA
- **PAGE** in July/August : Fair Booth ideas, New LEAF for booth See attached list.
- **GARDENERS GILD** coordination.
- **Water Quality Master Plan** – Thursday, June 15 meeting. Carol will attend if there is an audience.
- **Certified Wildlife Habitat** – Jill managing through 2023 until Lisa assumes the role. Lisa talked to DNS they suggested a map of leaseholds. – Lisa will make one

- Firefly Festival 2024: Sleep out on the Green; Music, Sing along. Food trucks in the morning and evening
- Community Informational meeting for herbicide use.

LEAF content from Lisa:

Work Group: Stevie and Paul interview.

Arden Page: Save the date for October Campfire.

Ideas for Arden Fair: Dog Treats, new LEAF, regular literature (Weeds Gone Wild), certified wildlife habitat

Elaine: Invasive hit list- Interview

2-page handout at June Town Assembly, QR code to other info. Eric can make them-when the appetite for more info

Future editions: Tom's bridges from another neighborhood) Bev's light pollution Book Review. E. Varley book review

FAIR BOOTH: Raffle of weeding, costumes, brochures, LEAF

**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, July 10, 2023. 6:00 pm

Adjourn: 7:40