

Minutes
Nature Preserve Committee Meeting
Monday, April 10, 2017

NOTE: Meeting was held in the Nature Preserve to better visualize projects under consideration

Present: Tom Price, Sue Minetti, Halsey White, Jo Schuler, Peter LaMontague, Marge Eberz, Betsey Klinger, Dave Horne

Absent: Bob Binkley, Jim Chant

- I. **Approval of minutes from March 13 meeting**
Motion to approve by Sue was seconded by Jo and approved by all

- II. **Unfinished Business**
 - A. Miller properties
 1. DCNR grant application approved by Council on 4/5.
 2. Grant application conditional on status of second appraisal, which we are awaiting.
 3. Grant will be submitted on Wednesday.
Tom shared that a special Council meeting was held on April 5 at which Council approved moving ahead with the DCNR grant application. The application must be submitted by April 12.

 - B. Trail cameras
Borough solicitor has recommended placing a sign at each Preserve entrance stating that cameras are present. We will look into having small, unobtrusive signs made.

 - C. Message board for main entrance\
Halsey shared a draft drawing of the proposed message board.

 - D. Tree ID plates
Not discussed

 - E. Child Abuse History Clearances
Clearances have been obtained by all members who will participate in the workday.

 - F. Groner Fund residual / Miriam's stock shares
Not discussed

 - G. Brush mower
Not discussed

 - H. Spring work days (April 15 and May 20)

Tom reported we are expecting 7 NHS students from CB West. Tom has not heard from CB South

I. DVU studies

No new information

J. Community awareness

1. Newsletter article on habitat restoration efforts (Spring)
2. "Friends of the Nature Preserve"
3. Facebook page

Tom is writing an article for the Spring newsletter about the progress we have made in the Preserve since the adoption of the Strategic Plan in 2015.

III. **Deferred Items**

- A. Orphans Court ruling on uses of Groner funds
- B. Incorporation of Chant tract into Preserve / installation of boundary signs
- C. Chant dedication stone
- D. Preserve map and brochure

IV. **New Business**

A. Addendum/update to Strategic Plan

Not discussed. Tom will prepare this update for next month's committee meeting.

B. Budget update

Year to date expenses were provided for committee review.

C. Bartlett proposal for white pines

Proposal from Bartlett Tree Experts for using horticultural oil to treat Adelgids on white pines at a cost of \$494.50 was discussed. Motion was made by Marge to accept the proposal, which was seconded by Halsey and approved by all.

D. East Meadow plugs

Dave reviewed the plant availability list from North Creek Native Plant Nursery. Some of the grass and perennial plugs we want are not available, but some plugs that are available have been ordered from North Creek through Bowman's. Interested committee members will meet Thursday 4/13 at 3 pm to stake the areas in the East Meadow where plugs are to be planted on our workday coming up on Saturday.

E. Eagle Scout project

Halsey described a possible Eagle Scout project to address the erosion problem on the path connecting the East Meadow to the Creekside Trail. Logs (water bars) would be placed diagonally on the trail and covered with stone. The logs used would be retrieved from what is laying throughout the Preserve. It is estimated that 20 tons of stone would be needed for the project. The Scouts would also build some brush piles as part of this project. Sue made a motion to approve an expenditure of up to \$300.00 for the project, which was seconded by Peter and approved by all.

F. Spring work day tasks

1. Move pergola to center of Miriam's Meadow (4/15)
2. Plant plugs in East Meadow (4/15)
3. Remove liriopie around main entrance sign (4/15)
4. Remove dead sweet bay magnolia and redbuds (4/15)
5. Put red stone down on wet spots on Creekside and Beech Tree Trails (4/15)
6. Weeding / mulching Miriam's Meadow
7. Install boundary signs along Weston /Marsh properties
8. Put fresh wood chips (when available) around benches / Beech Tree Trail
9. Shrub planting (?)

G. Fall restoration projects

1. Planting of red cedars and shrubs in cleared part of Unit 1
2. Reforestation of riparian zone
3. Planting of buffer between Preserve and Weston property

Committee walked the area and discussed reforesting of the riparian area. This would be most likely be done with trees purchased from Octoraro. Tree seedlings would be in tree tubes. Peter will check with BCWSA to make sure we know exactly where the sewer line is. Area would need to be cleared of invasive species and unwanted trees this summer. Tom will obtain quotes for doing this.

Clearing and replanting the area bordering the Weston property with an evergreen buffer was also discussed. Black walnut trees are an issue here so white pines can't be used. Eastern red cedars could be used here.

H. Wholesale Native Plant Nurseries for large scale restoration projects

1. North Creek for perennials and grasses (<http://www.northcreeknurseries.com/>)
2. Octoraro for trees and shrubs (<https://www.octoraro.com/>)

North Creek is used as a supplier by Bowman's Hill. Octoraro is used by Natural Lands Trust for restoration projects in its preserves.

**Sue moved to adjourn was seconded by Halsey. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm
Next scheduled meeting is May 15, 2017**

Reminder: Work day Saturday April 15, 2017