

Minutes
Nature Preserve Committee Meeting
August 7, 2016

Present were Sam Bryant, Tom Price, Bob Binkley, Halsey White, Marge Eberz, Dave Horne, Jo Shuler, Peter LaMontagne and Dan O'Leary. Absent were Betsey Klinger, Jim Chant, and Patrick Huss

Old Business

- **Nature Preserve Committee ordinance:** New ordinance requires staggered terms of office. The committee is now limited to 11 members plus a non-voting Council liaison. Tom mentioned that with new ordinance, membership should be formalized and suggested that members who have not been attending meetings should be removed from the committee. Huss and Chant were mentioned. The committee now consists of the 10 members, (plus a Council liaison) with one vacancy, and no one asking to join. Peter agreed to contact Chant and Huss to determine their interest.
- **Landis Mill Road Entrance:** Brush has been cleared, two gravel parking spaces have been created, and a double-sided message board (made by Halsey White) has been installed. Going forward we need material to put in the message board.
- **Weed control in/around Miriam's Meadow:** Committee members will weed and mulch August 10 and August 24 (8:00-10:00)
- **Directional signage to the Preserve:** Since signs need to be 200 feet from traffic lights, the Committee suggested that two signs be installed on Butler Avenue so they can be seen approaching the intersection of Butler Ave. and Sand Road from both directions. The Committee also suggested that another sign be installed on South Tamanend Ave., but only after the B&H path is completed. Sam and Bob will place this issue on the agenda for the next meeting of the Planning Commission, as all signs must be approved by Planning and the issue will also be sent to the CBC for its comment. The committee voted on wording for the signs, preferring "Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve" over "New Britain Borough Nature Preserve."
- **Miller Properties:** Miller property appraisal is going forward. The sequence of processes are: Appraisal, sale agreement, grant application, grant determination, submission to Orphan's Court.

- **Orphans Court ruling on uses of Groner Funds:** In addition to a ruling on the purchase of the Miller properties, we would like the Court to approve spending Groner funds on future maintenance of the Chant tract once it becomes part of the Preserve. We would also like the Court to rule on whether Groner funds can be used to pay for directional signage to the Preserve.
- **Fall plans for continued habitat restoration:** Tom presented a list of trees and shrubs currently available at Highland Hill Farms. It was decided to investigate other sources for smaller, less expensive, trees because of the large area to be replanted, and because volunteers could help plant them. It was also suggested that we meet after the August 24 work day and stake out the areas that we want to plant this fall so that we can better determine how many trees/shrubs we'll be planting this fall.
- **Fall Work Days:** September 17th and October 8th were selected as fall work days in the Preserve (9:00 to noon both days).
- **Miriam's Meadow Plant ID and Inventory:** Marge and Dave reported that they have completed an inventory of the native trees, shrubs, and perennials that have been planted in the borders surrounding Miriam's Meadow.

New Business

- **Mathews Ave. Entrance Issues:**
 1. The idea of purchasing a message board for the kiosk was discussed. Tom will investigate options and prices for the next meeting.
 2. It was mentioned that some of the plantings in front of the entrance sign were beginning to obscure the sign. It was agreed that we should move those plantings to another location sometime this fall.
 3. Bob Binkley felt that the Mini Library at the main entrance greatly distracted from the Kiosk. Some committee members also felt the library would get more use in Covered Bridge Park. The committee agreed to remove the library.

Submitted by Peter LaMontagne, Tom Price