

**Minutes**  
**Nature Preserve Committee**  
Monday, August 14, 2017

**Members Present:** Marge Eberz, Dave Horne, Peter LaMontange, Tom Price, Halsey White, Bob Binkley, Betsey Klinger

**Members Absent:** Sue Minetti, Jo Schuler, Taylor Thompson

I. **Approval of minutes from July 10 meeting**

**Motion was made by Halsey to approve above minutes, Marge seconded the motion, all approved.**

II. **Old Business**

A. Pedestrian crossing striping on Landis Mill Road (COMPLETED)

**Mark Hinterlang completed our request. The striping creates a visual connection between the Preserve and Miriam's Meadow.**

B. Scout erosion control project (COMPLETED)

**Under Halsey's supervision, the scouts did an outstanding job. This project was one of the unfinished tasks outlined in our Strategic Plan.**

C. Pop-up Park (Sept. 15-17)

1. Plants for Preserve (?)
2. Information table

**Tom has not received updates and will make contact with Lori Kesselman.**

**Suggestions were made for materials to have available for the table our committee will be supporting.**

D. Pollinator Habitat registrations

1. Xerxes Society (COMPLETED)  
**Tom has the sign and will install ASAP.**
2. Penn State Cooperative Extension

**Marge reported on the extensive and comprehensive progress that she has made on the application.**

E. Fall work days (Sept. 23, Oct. 14, Nov. 4)

- **Tom has emailed the NHS advisors at CB South and West to alert them of the scheduled work days.**
  - **On Sept. 23 we will plan to plant any plants we purchase from the pop-up park and also complete the main entrance planting. The Oct. 14 work day will be devoted to planting the trees and shrubs we are ordering from Octoraro Nursery. Nov. 4 will hopefully focus on invasive removal.**
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**Nothing new to report on the following items:**

- F. DVU studies
- G. Trail cameras
- H. Miller properties / DCNR Grant
- I. Tree ID plates
- J. Groner Fund residual / Miriam's stock shares
- K. Addendum/update to Strategic Plan

**III. Deferred Items**

- A. Orphans Court ruling on uses of Groner funds
- B. Chant's Woods
  - 1. **Boundary** signs
  - 2. Dedication stone
- C. Preserve brochure
- D. Preserve map
- E. Brush mower purchase

**IV. New Business**

- A. Budget update

**Updated copy was distributed and reviewed. We have spent \$5,459 this year to date and have \$7,040 remaining.**
- B. Current Maintenance tasks
  - 1. Dead shrub removal (COMPLETED)

**Marge and Dave removed the dead St John's Wort near Miriam's Rock and replaced it with a Ninebark.**
  - 2. Cutting back growth along trails

**Tom plans to do this again ASAP.**
  - 3. Main entrance bed (weeding, planting, mulching)

**We need a work session before our first work day to prepare the bed for planting. Tom polled the committee and Tuesday 8/22 at 6 pm was selected to complete this task.**
  - 4. Weed control around cedars along Sunrise Trail

**This is something else that should be done before the Sept. work day– Tom will try and do it.**
  - 5. **The following are tasks that can hopefully be completed on the Sept. work day:**
    - Removal of several hazard trees along Sunrise Trail
    - Spreading of wood chips around benches / Landis Mill entrance sign

- Spreading of stones on Pine Tree Trail
- Spreading of wood chips needed on Beech Tree Trail

C. Fall maintenance / restoration plans

1. Habitat restoration in riparian area and Unit 1 clearing

**Tom and Halsey walked the Preserve with John Emmell last week to discuss whether John will be able to clear/mow the areas of Units 1 and 4 that need to be cleared prior to planting in these areas this fall. John said he could do this work. Prior to John doing this work, anything we want to protect will need to be tagged.**

2. Visit to Octoraro

**Halsey and Tom had a very productive visit to Octoraro Native Plant Nursery last week and feel that this nursery is one we can do business with. Following that visit, Tom and Halsey met with Ann Rhoads at the Preserve and discussed possible tree and shrub plantings in Units 1 and 4 with her.**

3. Proposed plantings

**Tom shared a handout showing what tree and shrub species are currently growing in Units 1 and 4 and what trees and shrubs from Octoraro he and Halsey are proposing for planting in these areas this fall. After a lengthy review and discussion, Halsey made a motion to approve both the proposed plantings and the expenditure. Peter seconded the motion. All present agreed. Tom will place the order with Octoraro ASAP.**

D. **Peter presented information about a stream bank erosion project that Sellersville is undertaking along the Perkiomenville Creek.**

E. **Tom reported we have an invasive weed “Japanese Hops” along the creek in the Preserve. Tom will call Brian O’Neill from Weeds, Inc. for advice on how to best deal with this.**

F. **Marge presented copies of her handout describing Fothergilla, a native shrub being featured by the Shade Tree Commission in the upcoming issue of the Borough newsletter. The handout will be posted on the information bulletin boards.**

**Halsey made a motion to adjourn, Peter seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 9 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday September 18<sup>th</sup>.**