

Minutes

Nature Preserve Committee

Monday, February 8, 2016

I. Old Business

A. Preserve Expansion

Sam, Peter Tom

1. Meetings with Power and Marsh

Sam and Peter reported they spoke with both parties 2 weeks ago and both appeared interested. On follow up, Marsh requested the committee proceed with an appraisal. There has been no response from Power.

Application for the DCNR Grant (awarding 50% of purchase) is due mid- April and requires 2-3 months to process.

Discussion ensued regarding easement vs ownership.

2. Appraisals

Council had approved “contact”. Tom will request appraisal approval from council at next scheduled meeting.

3. Coleman tract

Sam reported experiencing phone tag and will continue to pursue.

B. Chant donation

Sam

1. Current status

Sam reported that a “face to face” conversation will be more beneficial.

2. Recognition of

Revisit when donation process becomes final.

C. Bamboo

Tom, Bob Sam

1. Second application of herbicide

Tom reported contact with Brian O’Neil at Weeds who advised waiting until August to evaluate the bamboo. We may or may not need a second application of herbicide after that time.

2. Maintenance strip along Weston property line

Bob was not present to report contact outcome with Gilbert. Discussion ensued regarding clearing and mowing the boundary line and how much to consider clearing. Halsey suggested establishing mowing pattern to define boundary. Tom suggested scheduling a “committee walk” to better visualize the area under discussion. Tom to schedule.

3. Spray paint on Weston's fence
Sam reported that there has not been any activity on the issue. It has been suggested that Sam speak with the Westons.

- D. Trail signs Halsey, Betsey
The fourth coat of poly has been completed. Halsey reported the next step will be to notch the posts to inset the signs and to cut the post tops at a 45 degree angle and seal to protect them from weather.
- E. Additional boundary signs Peter
Peter has obtained a quote from DRS of \$4.00 per piece to cover cost with delivery in about 30 days.
- F. Tree name tags Marge, Dave, Kim
Marge requested that Kim obtain product information for tags used at Del Val.
- G. Spring Work Days Tom Kim Committee
 1. Dates
Committee agreed on 4/16 and 5/21 as work days.
 2. Volunteers (Project Earth, Scouts)
**There has been little response from the Del Val group "Project Earth". Kim was asked to follow up with the advisor.
Tom did speak with Joe Fluehr regarding Scout help. He will get back to Tom.**
 3. Tasks
As previously discussed.
- H. Habitat restoration plans Tom, Marge, Dave
 1. Walk-through with Highland Hill Farm
Tom will arrange a date. Marge not available 3/10-27
 2. Miller house as water source (Pete)
Contact has not been made
 3. Tree Vitalize grant
Due to timing, fall is suggested
- I. Directional signage Sam
Sam reported positive feedback from PennDot. There is a program for directional signage within 5 miles from the attraction. Recommendation was made for Nature Preserve signs at the Parkway and Bristol Road, Butler and Bristol, Butler and Sand, Sand and Matthews.
- J. Additional benches Pete Tom
Tom showed the group pictures of suggested two additional benches for placement along the stream. All were in agreement of selection. Tom will request approval from Council to spend approximately \$1200 for the two benches. Peter to speak with Chant regarding space to receive shipment and space to assemble.

- K. Parking area on Landis Mill Rd. Sam
It was confirmed that the proposed parking spaces were two and should be parallel to Landis Mill Road.

- L. Message board at Landis Mill Rd. entrance Tom Halsey Peter
Tom requested that the committee look at the Tree Top link to decide the design of the proposed message board. Halsey and Peter have offered to submit a drawing and with approval to construct the message board.

- M. Website integration Sam Halsey
Sam reported completion of integration and requested review by the committee before making it live.
Halsey had spoken with Patrick who had little success with Google contact to have several of the trail names corrected. Halsey will make contact and suggested that the website be put on hold until the map is updated.

II. **New Business**

- A. Borough intern (Kim Moyer) Tom, Sam
Warm welcome was extended to Kim. We look forward to working with her and to benefit from her work with the Boro and her input to our committee. She is available to us on Tuesdays and Fridays until early May. She can be reached at intern@newbritainboro.com

- B. Nature Preserve Committee ordinance Tom Committee
Although this committee has been in existence since the mid 80s, it was never formally established. Tom requested we consider what verbiage we would like to see to describe our purpose. To be discussed at the March meeting.

- C. Groner house Tom
After discussion regarding the committee's responsibility to the Groner house, it was the opinion of the committee that the Boro should be responsible for the house and grounds. Our committee would work as an advisory group for the grounds but not directly responsible for the maintenance.

- D. National Farm and Garden Association tour Tom
 (June 18: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
Committee was very interested in participating. Tom to secure more information.