

MINUTES
Nature Preserve Committee
Monday, January 18, 2016

I. Goals for 2016

A. Habitat maintenance

1. We will need to keep previously planted White Pines and River Birch, as well as any new spring plantings, watered throughout the summer. The present set-up using water from Binkley's works well for plantings in the cleared section of Unit 1.
 - Peter will contact Ken Miller to see if we can use his water to water proposed plantings in the East Meadow.
2. We will need to mulch around White Pines that were planted in Sept.
 - Bob will contact Gilbert to have load of wood chips delivered before spring work days.
3. We will need to continue with weed control and mulching in and around Miriam's Meadow.
4. We will continue with the removal of invasive shrubs and vines as time and manpower permits.
5. We will need to continue efforts to control bamboo invading the Preserve from the Weston's property.
 - Tom will contact Brian O'Neill from Weeds Inc. to inquire as to whether second application of herbicide is needed.
 - Bob will arrange on-site visit with Gilbert to discuss clearing swath along property line.

B. New tree and shrub plantings

1. Starting this spring and continuing in the fall, we plan to continue planting native trees and shrubs in the cleared area, and along the path, in Unit I and, working with the Bird Town Committee, we plan to plant Eastern Red Cedar / shrub border along northern edge of East Meadow.
 - Tom will arrange walk-through with Marge, Jo, Betsey, and Dave to plan the above (when weather warms).
 - Tom will contact Highland Hill Farms to arrange on-site visit in March to discuss plans and pricing.
2. The Borough will look into applying for Tree Vitalize grant
 - Tom will coordinate with Sam

C. Signage

1. Trail signs will be ready to install on spring work days.
 - Halsey will contact Betsey when signs are ready for polyurethane
 - Tom will contact Joe Fluehr to see if Boy Scouts are available to help with installation.
2. We need to install boundary signs around Weston property and along borders of Chant donation.
 - Peter will order 25 additional signs.
3. We would like directional signage on 202, Sand Road, and perhaps Tamanend Ave.
 - Sam will coordinate with Committee.
4. We discussed installing name tags on some of the noteworthy trees throughout the Preserve.
 - Marge will check to see what they do at Bowman's Hill.

D. Trail maintenance

1. We will need to attend to trail maintenance as needed.

E. Additional benches

1. We will install two new benches – one at Miller's Point and one farther upstream along the Neshaminy.
 - Peter will bring information on benches to February meeting.

F. Parking / Landis Mill Rd. Entrances

1. We will create two parking spaces on Landis Mill Road across the street from Miriam's Meadow.
 - Sam will arrange site visit with Mark Hinterlang and Tom.
 - Tom will coordinate that site visit with interested committee members.
2. Creation of these parking spaces will create a more significant entrance to the Preserve on Landis Mill Rd, perhaps allowing the closure of the existing entrance at the corner of Landis Mill Rd. and Aarons Ave.

G. Preserve Expansion

1. We want to incorporate the tract donated to the Borough by Jim Chant into the Nature Preserve ASAP.
 - We need access to this area across the corner of the Marsh property and then we'll need to create an "entrance" to this tract off the corner of the West Meadow.
 - We agreed it would be a good idea to commemorate the donation with a rock/plaque.
 - Will discuss further at another meeting.

2. We have the OK from Borough Council to contact Powers and Marsh about possible acquisition of adjoining tracts (through purchase or donation)
 - Sam will contact Powers and Marsh to see if they are interested in meeting with us.
 - Sam, Peter, and Mike Goodwin will attend any meetings with these property owners.

H. Website

1. We would like to incorporate the current Preserve website into the Borough's website.
 - Hopefully, Sam can arrange this as part of revamping of Borough's website.

I. Preserve Map / Message Board

1. Eventually we would like to have a professional map of the Preserve mounted on the main entrance Kiosk and perhaps another one mounted on a smaller kiosk at the Landis Mill Road entrance. We could also mount message boards on these kiosks.
 - Map is on hold until the outcome of possible land acquisitions is known.
 - Tom will look into small kiosks / message boards for the next meeting. One was just purchased for Orchard Park..

II. **Spring Work Days**

1. We will need at least two work days this spring – in late April or early May.
 - Tom will coordinate days with Sam, committee members, Bird Town Committee, Boy Scouts, Project Earth students at Del Val, Environmental Clubs at CB South and CB West, and other community volunteers.
2. Probable tasks:
 - a. Installation of trail signs.
 - b. Installation of additional boundary signs.
 - c. Mulching around White Pine trees
 - d. Mulching in and around Miriam's Meadow.
 - e. Weed control in Miriam's Meadow.
 - f. Planting (depending on arrangements made with Highland Hill Farms and outcome of Tree Vitalize grant application))

III. **2016 Meeting Schedule** (7:30 unless otherwise noted)

Jan. 18

Feb. 8

Mar. 7

Apr. 11 (at Del Val.)

➤ Halsey will arrange

May 9

June 13

July 18 (6:30)

Aug. 8

Sept. 19 (6:30)

Oct. 10

Nov. 14

Dec. 12