

Minutes
Nature Preserve Committee
Monday, July 18, 2016

In attendance: Bob Binkley, Marge Eberz, Betsey Klinger, Jo Schuler, Peter LaMontagne, Tom Price, Halsey White, Sam Bryant

I. **Old Business**

A. Nature Preserve Committee ordinance

1. Approved for advertising by Council at July meeting.
2. Council will vote to approve at August meeting.

All have reviewed with no comment.

B. Landis Mill Rd. entrance

1. Construction of parking spaces is completed
2. Brush clearing next to new parking area
3. Message board installation
4. Signage for parking

Discussion ensued. Work day (7/29) set to clear brush and install message board. Decision made not to add parking signage.

C. Maintenance issues

1. Tree watering (ongoing)
2. Weed control in/around Miriam's Meadow – need to schedule work day?

Bob and Tom have maintained the watering schedule for the new plantings. To date we have lost only one red cedar.

In depth discussion evolved regarding the optimal method of controlling weeds in Miriam's Meadow. The plan is to weed the borders and heavily mulch as the weeding is completed. Tom will order mulch. Workdays are 7/27, 8/10, 8/24 8am – 10 am. Tom will alert the schools to elicit help from the Honor Society members.

D. Directional signage to Preserve

1. Locations to be discussed:
 - a. Butler Ave & Sand Road
 - b. Mathews & Tamanend Ave. or Aarons & Tamanend Ave.
2. Required size: 42" x 16"
3. Required design: Go to <http://palogo.org/> to see sample. Heron logo NOT permitted.
4. Wording: "Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve"
5. Cost

Sam and Peter presented gathered information. Sign cost is \$650/sign which includes installation. Signs are blue background with white lettering. Committee questioned overhead sign at Butler and Sand road and all felt Aarons and Tamanend would be best from a safety standpoint for the second sign. Sam will contact Pendot for answers to several questions that the committee presented.

E. Property acquisition

1. A resident has expressed an interest in having the Borough purchase property adjacent to the Nature Preserve.
2. At June meeting, Council approved hiring an appraiser at a cost of no more than \$5,000 (will come from Groner funds).
3. Currently waiting on appraisal.
Awaiting quote from Indian Valley Appraisal.

F. Bamboo ordinance

1. Borough considering ordinance banning bamboo, as other local municipalities have done. Bamboo from neighboring properties has become a concern for the Nature Preserve as well as private property owners.
2. Planning Commission discussed at June meeting and suggested changes to draft ordinance and asked staff for additional research.
It is expected that the ordinance would solve/support bamboo problem in the preserve. Tom requested that the dead bamboo be removed so mowing could be done in that border area. Question was asked how violations would be handled. Sam continues to speak with other communities to find out their process.

G. Tree tags

Ongoing

H. Nature Preserve map

Ongoing

II. **New Business**

A. Preserve budget (mid-year review)

Committee requested that appraisal expenses be taken from Groner Funds rather than Operating Budget. Sam to handle that change.

B. Chant tract

1. Petitioning of Orphan's Court to make Chant donation eligible for Groner funds for maintenance at a cost of \$2,000.
2. Simply posting Chant tract as part of the Preserve would not require Court approval. Would need to be careful about spending Groner funds there.
3. Boundary signs needed
Will request Council's resolution regarding Chant boundary signs.

C. Fall plans for continued habitat restoration

All agreed to the planting of additional pines in the fall. The water system would be moved to the new plantings. Marge recommended that we consider adding some berry shrubs. Flowering trees were also suggested. Tom to contact Highland Hill to find out their inventory.

D. Fall Work Day

1. Tasks

- a. Removal of tagged invasive shrubs
- b. Clearing growth at Miller's Point

2. When

Fall work day will be decided at the August meeting.

E. Miriam's Meadow: Plant ID and inventory

Marge to work with Dave to prepare a list of what plants have been added to Miriam's Meadow.

F. Nature Preserve brochure

Kim left a preliminary draft for a trifold brochure for the meadow.