

MINUTES
Nature Preserve Committee
Monday, June 12, 2017

Members present: Marge Eberz, Dave Horne, Peter LaMontagne, Tom Price, Halsey White.

Members absent: Bob Binkley, Jim Chant, Betsey Klinger, Sue Minnetti, Jo Schuler.

Prospective member present: Taylor Thompson. **Guest:** Joe Borek (Finance Committee)

- I. **Approval of minutes from April 10 and May 8 meetings**
Since we did not have a quorum, approval of these minutes was tabled.

- II. **Old Business**
 - A. Community awareness - newsletter article
The last issue of the Borough newsletter featured a page one article about our restoration efforts in the Preserve. Copies of the article have been posted on both sign boards at the Preserve.

 - B. White pines care / prognosis
The herbicide-exposed pines have now been pruned, fertilized, and treated with horticultural oil by Bartlett Tree Experts. In recent discussions with both Pete Williams from Bartlett and Brian O'Neill from Weeds, Inc., we've been advised that the trees now just need additional time to recover.

 - C. Weeds, Inc. treatment of meadows
The spot treatment of the thistle and poison ivy in Miriam's Meadow and the East Meadow has been completed.

 - D. East Meadow plantings
Tom, Dave, Marge, Jo, Betsey, and Peter planted the remaining plugs, and some additional plants provided by Dave, last week. Tom watered these plantings on Sunday morning.

 - E. DVU studies
The studies continue. Tom spoke with Maggie last week. While the boards are being regularly checked, not much of interest has been found to date.

 - F. Trail cameras
The cameras are currently being used in the community garden. They will soon be moved to the Preserve. Notices of the cameras has been posted on both message boards in the Preserve.

G. Scout projects

Halsey reported that the scouts will soon be starting this work.

H. Miller properties

In an email to Tom, Sam provided the following update:

“DCNR has passed the grant on from its regional office to Harrisburg for scoring and final review. If awarded the grant funds, we would be required to do another appraisal before receiving them for Ken's property, as they're unfamiliar with the work of Richard Lam (though he does have all the proper certifications). We likely would have needed to do this anyway, in order to reconcile for the Orphan's Court the difference between the appraisals done by Rick (\$345,000) and Indian Valley (\$240,000). We will have answer on that sometime between Halloween and Thanksgiving. Peter and I plan to meet with Mike Peters and/or Savona sometime this summer to determine what information we need for the Orphan's Court, if we're awarded the grant.”

I. Tree ID plates

To move forward with this, it was suggested that we do another walk through the Preserve and make a definitive list of those trees that we want to label.

J. Groner Fund residual / Miriam's stock shares

Sam provided the following update in his email to Tom:

“At staff meeting last week, Mike Peters reported they were able to apply for the money without going through Orphan's Court, as it was listed in the items that should have went to the Borough. He expects to have resolution by the end of the month. This would add a few thousand dollars to the Groner Fund.”

K. Brush mower

No additional information.

L. Addendum/update to Strategic Plan

Still a work in progress.

M. Fall restoration projects

1. Planting of red cedars / shrubs in Unit 1
2. Reforestation of riparian zone
3. Planting of red cedar buffer between Preserve and Weston property.

Our restoration plans for the fall will be discussed at our meetings in July and August. We will most likely schedule three work days in the fall (Sept. and Oct. for planting and Nov. for invasive removal). Taylor reported having mixed success using tree tubes in some of the tree plantings done by the Heritage Conservancy. She also mentioned that the Conservancy has obtained some of their trees from ArcheWild Nursery in Quakertown and that she has a working relationship with its owners.

III. **Deferred Items**

- A. Orphans Court ruling on uses of Groner funds
- B. Incorporation of Chant tract into Preserve / installation of boundary signs
- C. Chant dedication stone
- D. Preserve map and brochure

IV. **New Business**

A. Budget update

An update was provided by Tom. To date, we have spent just over \$4,000 of our overall 2017 budget of \$12,500.

B. Budget projections – 2018

The meeting began with a discussion about our long-term plans with Joe Borek from the Finance Committee. It was emphasized that the Borough's annual financial commitment to the Preserve from the General Fund is locked in at \$2,500.

C. May work day review

Tom had previously emailed a report on the May 20 workday to committee members. Most of the scheduled tasks were completed.

D. Remaining tasks

- a. Main entrance bed (tilling and mulching)
- b. East Meadow shrub border (weeding)

These tasks will be scheduled and completed sometime in the next few weeks.

E. Pedestrian crossing striping on Landis Mill Road

It was suggested by Tom that a pedestrian crossing be striped on Landis Mill Road to provide a highly visible connection between the Preserve entrance on Landis Mill Road with Miriam's Meadow. Sam has indicated that this could be done after Aarons Ave, Landis Mill Rd., and Matthews Ave. are repaved.

F. Farm and Garden Tour – June 17 (10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Tom's property on Aarons Ave. is on this tour. This provides an opportunity to highlight the Preserve and Miriam's Meadow since there will only be one-way traffic on the Aarons Ave. during the tour. This means that everyone on the tour will drive by Miriam's Meadow as the exit via Landis Mill Road and Matthews Ave. Tom will create a one page handout providing information about the Preserve and Miriam's Meadow that will be given out to people on the tour. Peter will install a sign pointing to the Preserve at the Landis Mill Rd. entrance. Halsey will create and install a sign pointing to Miriam's Meadow.

G. Pop-up Park

The Borough is planning a pop-park at the Town Center shopping center on the weekend of Sept. 15-17. This is a Bird Town Committee project headed by Lori Kesilman. The park will feature native, bird-friendly, plants provided by Gino's Nursery and, likely, Bowman's Hill. The park is being designed by Gilmore and Associates. The Wood Butchers are building a pergola as part of the design. Peter suggested that we have a table at the park with information about the Nature Preserve. Committee members agreed that this was a good idea and Tom will talk to Lori about this.

