

MINUTES
Nature Preserve Committee
Monday, March 7, 2016

In attendance: Bob Binkley, Marge Eberz, Dave Horne, Betsey Klinger, Peter LaMontagne, Dan O’Leary, Kim Moyer, Tom Price, Jo Schuler, Halsey White

I. Old Business

A. Preserve expansion

1. DCNR Grant

- a. May require no cash match from Borough. If property is acquired below its appraised value, the difference can be used in lieu of cash for the matching requirement. If awarded the grant, the appraisal and grant preparation costs can also be paid from grant funds and property donation difference. Would allow us to acquire property with little to no funds spent.**

Grant application is due 4/13

- b. Site visit Planned with Drew Gilchrist, DCNR Program Coordinator on 3/30**

2. Appraiser hired.

- a. Tom and Sam met with appraiser on 2/29.**
- b. Mark H. will give specifications to Sam for appraiser.**

3. Powers tract

No response from Powers as of Friday 3/4/16

4. Marsh tracts

- a. Peter made contact. Mrs. Marsh seems opposed to proposal at this time but seems willing to talk.**
- b. Suggestion made to consider planting of trees along Sand Road to make the area appear less industrial. Investigate using “Tree Fund” dollars. The fund is comprised of fines collected when trees have been removed.**

5. Coleman tract

- a. Coleman may be interested in selling entire property. We only have interest in wooded areas that border Preserve and Powers property. The property is zoned farm/residential.**
- b. Tom, Peter, Sam, and Kim are meeting on site w/ Coleman on Friday, 3/11.**

6. Miller tract

Peter spoke with Ken Miller. Ken would like to see Borough ownership. Carol Miller who owns adjacent lot has attempted to sell her property with no success.

B. Chant donation

- 1. Integration on HOLD is due to borough's solicitor requesting time to investigate what Orphans Court thinks.**
- 2. Wording for plaque not finalized. Cost will be based upon wording. Peter to share his draft.**

C. Bamboo

- 1. Maintenance strip along property line with Weston's deemed to be impractical upon inspection.**
- 2. During visit by Preserve members last month, Sherri Weston approached the group and expressed her displeasure with treatment of bamboo along boundary line.**

D. Trail signs

Posts are cut. Anticipate Scout help to prepare holes on both work days.

E. Additional boundary signs

Peter will order 25 additional signs. Tom will pick up stakes.

F. Tree name tags

A walk-through will be planned when the trees have leafed out to select the trees that will be marked. Jo will pick up a catalog from Bob Shaw in Doylestown for review.

G. Spring Work Days (April 16, May 21)

- 1. No commitment yet from Project Earth or definite commitment from Scouts.**
- 2. Plans to schedule our next meeting at the College has been cancelled. Committee felt that it would not result in expected positive outcome.**
- 3. Kim to follow up with contacts at school to arrange volunteer help for work days**
- 4. Tasks will be discussed at April committee meeting**

H. Habitat restoration plans

1. **Walk-through scheduled with Highland Hill Farm on 3/1**
2. **Peter received a “no” to request to use water from Miller property. House is currently rented. Groner house may be an alternative.**
3. **Tom distributed a list of trees and shrubs to be considered.**

I. Directional signage

1. **Kim reported: Signs are \$600 each. Suspect we would need permission from other townships to place them on locations previously discussed.**
2. **Penndot size is 48 x 16**
3. **Suggestion made to consider two signs, one at Butler and Sand and the other at Tamanend and Matthews.**
4. **Suggested wording: “Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve”**

J. Additional benches

Two benches have been ordered. Peter to verify with Chant that benches can be assembled at his place of business. Assembly to take place on work days.

K. Parking area on Landis Mill Rd.

Tom met with Mark. Two parking spaces were marked. Council will need to approve expenditure since work had not been budgeted.

L. Message board at Landis Mill Rd. entrance

Ongoing. Peter and Halsey will build when time permits.

M. NP website integration into Borough website

Completed by Sam

N. National Farm and Garden Association tour (June 18: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)

The organization is not interested in our participation. They are looking for residential participation.

O. Intern Projects

Reporting included in above

II. **New Business**

- A. Appointment Advisory Committee rep
Halsey will be representing the Nature Preserve Committee

- B. Groner House
 - 1. Maintenance plan
We don't want this to be a Nature Preserve Committee responsibility. Suggestion made for giving responsibility to a new Facilities Committee. Anticipate that formulation of an Ordinance will clarify responsibilities of our committee.
 - 2. Vines damaging fence.

- C. Nature Preserve Committee ordinance
Suggestions for wording of Committee's responsibilities discussed and agreed to. Tom will forward to Sam for Mike Savona to incorporate into ordinance.

- D. Bamboo Ordinance
Proposed ordinance is being presented to Council for discussion tomorrow.

- E. Google Map of Preserve
Halsey thanked members who made the time to request name changes on trails.