

**Minutes**  
**Nature Preserve Committee**  
Monday, November 14, 2016

**Present:** Tom Price, Jo Schuler, Marge Eberz, Bob Binkley, Halsey White, Peter LaMontagne, Dave Horne and Betsey Klinger  
**Absent:** Patrick Huss, Jim Chant  
**Guest:** Ken Miller

**Tom extended his sincere thanks to the committee for their hard work and many accomplishments over the past year.**

**I. Approval of Minutes from October 10, 2016**

**Motion to approve by Marge was seconded by Bob and approved by all.**

**II. Unfinished Business**

**A. Work completed in Preserve since last meeting (including Nov. 12 work day):**

1. Installation of three screech owl boxes and cleaning out of three others
2. Planting of prickly ash, elderberry, and raspberry
3. Additional caging of tree seedlings
4. Tagging and removal of invasive trees, shrubs, and vines
5. Clean-up around main entrance sign
6. Mulching of red cedars along Sunrise Trail
7. Cleaning out of bluebird houses
8. Spreading of wood chips on Beech Tree Trail

**It was the consensus of the committee recent goals were not only met but exceeded the expectations.**

**B. Nov. 12 Work Day:**

1. Follow-up thank-you to NHS students:
  - a. Announcements at both high schools

**Janet Moore, who volunteered on the work day, offered to notify both schools and have the NHS volunteers recognized.**

- b. Letter to the Intelligencer

**Tom offered to send information to the Intelligencer recognizing the accomplishments of the student volunteers and their contribution to the community.**

2. Disposal of brush piles

**Tom will ask Chris Gilbert to quote removal of the brush piles.**

C. Message board for main entrance

**Halsey and Peter will present a sketch drawing and plan to build by March 2017.**

D. Preserve map

**No further information at this time**

E. Tree identification tags

**Continuing to explore options. Jo will inform Nick Shaw that we do not feel the product available from him is appropriate for our usage in the Preserve. Marge to forward to Tom additional product information for exploration.**

F. Directional signage to Preserve

**Tom reported talking with Sam: The Borough application check was deposited by PennDOT and Sam has sent a follow up email requesting status.**

G. Miller property purchase

**Peter introduced guest Ken Miller to the committee. Sam and Peter had met with Ken; Peter gave the group a comprehensive update. The formal appraisal was received and the application for the DCNR Grant will follow. Carol Miller has been contacted without response to date.**

H. Orphans Court ruling on uses of Groner funds

**Tom spoke with Sam: “There has been no action on this item, pending the Miller property discussions, as we want to approach the Court only once to save legal fees.”**

I. Groner Fund residual

**Application for funds has been made; no response to date.**

J. Bamboo / Weed ordinance (Noxious weeds vs. DCNR Invasive Plants)

**Nothing to report from Council. The committee discussed at some length noxious weeds vs invasive plants. It was shared that developers must submit a list of planned plantings. It was thought that anticipated Shade Tree Commission will have some direct influence on restricting undesirable plantings.**

III. **Deferred Items**

- A. Incorporation of Chant tract into Preserve / installation of boundary signs
- B. Chant dedication stone
- C. Preserve brochure

IV. **New Business**

A. Background checks

**Betsey questioned if background checks for committee members is required since we work with the high school NHS students several times a year. Sam reported that we may fall into the required category. Follow up will be done.**

B. **Budget Update**

- 1. Expenses to date: \$22,231.18
- 2. Remaining balance: \$ 3,087.82
- 3. Pending expenses
  - a. Removal of brush piles

**Reviewed by the committee**

C. Purchase of brush mower

**Discussion ensued. Tom presented that many projects could be completed without outside vendor help if we had this equipment. Peter suggested that we first rent a mower to experience what we anticipate being able to accomplish with the equipment. Tom to follow up.**

D. Consideration of committee vacancy applicant

**Application of Sue Minnetti to fill the committee vacancy was shared. Bob moved to approve and Halsey seconded. All approved. Tom will inform Sam that the committee approved the application and will ask that her appointment be put on the Council Agenda for the December 2016 Meeting.**

E. Preserve plant list compiled by Ann Rhoads

**It is the general consensus of the committee that we owe a sincere thank you recognition to Ann Rhoads for all the work she has done and continues to do with identifying the plant species in the Preserve. There was discussion that the information might be incorporated into the proposed map in the future.**

F. Community awareness of Preserve happenings

1. Newsletter article on habitat restoration efforts

**Tom is planning to write an article for the spring newsletter about our habitat restoration efforts in the Preserve.**

2. Council meeting presentation

**Tom plans a spring presentation to Council covering the progress made in the two years since the Preserve's Strategic Plan was first presented to them.**

3. "Friends of the Nature Preserve"

**There is an old list of community people who offered to support the Nature Preserve. Discussion ensued on how to educate and stimulate the community about the Preserve.**

4. Facebook page

**Bob to speak with the borough resident who currently posts Preserve pictures on "Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve" page on Facebook. The committee would like to have its own official Facebook to use for updates on Preserve happenings, photos, and announcements.**

G. Dog leash ordinance

**Dogs being walked in the Preserve without a leash continues to be a problem. Tom suggested the ordinance information be added to the dog leash signs in the Preserve. Jo suggested that the ordinance information be included in the borough newsletter.**

H. Larry Weiner visit

**Larry Weiner (Larry Weiner Landscape Design Associates) planned and installed the plantings for Miriam's Meadow in 2010. Tom spoke with him to see if he would be available for a "walk through" and offer feedback on the current state of the meadow and to give us advice/feedback regarding future habitat restoration plans throughout the Preserve. His consultation fee is \$250.00. A motion to set up this walkthrough was made by Bob, seconded by Halsey, and approved. Tom will contact Mr. Weiner to try and arrange the walk-through as soon as possible after Thanksgiving.**

V. **Adjournment**

**Halsey moved to adjourn and Peter seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.**

**Next scheduled meeting is December 12, 2016 at 7:30 pm**