

MINUTES
Nature Preserve Committee Meeting
Monday, October 10, 2016

Present: Tom Price, Peter LaMontagne, Marge Eberz, Bob Binkley, Halsey White
Absent: Dave Horne, Jo Schuler, Patrick Huss, Jim Chant

I. Unfinished Business

A. Membership issues

1. Election of chair and vice-chair
2. Members' terms of office
3. Membership expectations
4. Committee vacancies

Tom Price was elected to the chair position with unanimous vote.
Halsey White was elected to the vice-chair position with unanimous vote.
Betsey Klinger volunteered to continue recording meeting minutes.
Dan O'Leary has resigned the committee creating a vacancy.
Tom has talked with a possible candidate and will continue to pursue.

B. October 8 work day:

Completed tasks:

1. Weeding, planting, mulching of Miriam's Meadow / borders
2. Mulching of newly planted shrubs in East Meadow
3. Removal of previously tagged invasive shrubs
4. Improvement of sight view at Miller's Point

Once again we had a good response from Honor Society students from the local high schools. Chores accomplished were significant.

Remaining tasks:

1. Transplanting of perennials at main entrance sign
2. Additional mulching of Miriam's Meadow shrub borders
3. Mulching of red cedars along Sunrise Trail
4. Removal of additional invasive shrubs (Burning Bushes)
5. Clean out bird houses
6. Installation of additional screech owl boxes
7. Spreading of wood chips on Beech Tree Trail

Chris Gilbert is scheduled to do the approved tree work on Thursday 10/13/16.
Tom will poll the committee to obtain a date for another work day.

C. Future habitat restoration plans
Topic deferred to future meeting.

D. Bamboo / Weed ordinance
1. Approved by Planning and currently being reviewed by solicitor
2. Vote by Council in October to advertise.

Tom noted the ordinance does not appear on the Council agenda for October.

E. Message board / map for main entrance

Halsey and Peter continue to work on proposed message board. Bob has donated a piece of acrylic board to be used in the board construction.

All agreed that the map needs to have a professional appearance. Tom shared pictures of boards done by Graphic Imaging in Pipersville. Tom will contact them to obtain some elementary information.

F. Tree identification tags

All agreed that we will move forward with this project.

Ann Rhoads was invited to walk through the Nature Preserve with several committee members to identify some the trees and shrubs. Marge put temporary tags on several tree specimens growing near the trails. The undesirable shrubs were flagged by Tom for removal on work days.

G. NLT's Force of Nature training / PHS's Tree Tenders classes.

Halsey and Tom are enrolled in Force of Nature Training Sessions – 6 Saturdays.

Tom completed the Tree Tenders Classes offered by the PA Horticultural Society and encouraged committee members to take the course when next offered. Having three borough residents complete this course would give the borough a Tree Tenders “group” and make the borough eligible for a Tree Vitalize Grant.

H. Approved tree work by Gilbert

The approved tree work for the East Meadow is scheduled for Thursday 10/13. Tom has alerted Chris that we will take wood chips any time that he has some. Marge suggested the walnut chips be kept separate from others.

- I. Directional signage to Preserve (Two signs on Butler Ave.)
Committee will not move forward with signage until we have the Orphans Court ruling on use of Groner funds.

- J. Miller property appraisal
Peter reported that the appraisal has been received and the project continues to move forward.

- K. Orphans Court ruling on uses of Groner funds
No further information at this time.

- L. Groner Fund Investment Options
No further information at this time.

- M. Groner Funds residual
No further decision at this time.

- N. 2016 Budget
 - 1. Expenses to date: \$20,792.58
 - 2. Balance: \$ 4,526.42
 - 3. Pending expenses
 - a. Mowing
 - b. Brush pile removal

- O. 2017 Budget
Topic for future meeting

II. **Deferred Items**

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

- B. Preserve brochure

III. **New Business**

- A. Doug Tallamy talk at Del Val on Thursday, Oct. 27 at 6:00

Tom distributed the flyer from Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Council and encouraged all to attend