

Minutes
Nature Preserve Committee
Monday, September 11, 2017

Members Present: Marge Eberz, Dave Horne, Peter LaMontange, Tom Price, Halsey White, Jo Schuler, Bob Binkley, Betsey Klinger, **Members Absent:** Sue Minetti, Taylor Thompson

I. Approval of minutes from Aug. 14 meeting

Motion was made by Dave to approve above minutes, Halsey seconded the motion, all approved.

II. Old Business

A. Pop-up Park (Sept. 15-17)

1. Manning information table – Preserve brochure

The Bird Town and Nature Preserve Committees will share table space. Tom will secure and share the volunteer schedule. Tom suggested that our committee fill slots where the Nature Preserve is not represented.

2. Plant purchases for Preserve

As discussed at our last meeting, we would like to purchase pop-up park plants and shrubs suitable for the Preserve. Bob made a motion to purchase up to \$750.00 for plants and shrubs, Halsey seconded the motion, all approved.

B. Pollinator Habitat registrations

1. Xerxes Society sign

Tom has received the sign and suggested it be placed in Miriam's Meadow along with the Bird Town sign. The "rules" sign would be relocated to the Nature Preserve. All agreed.

2. Penn State Cooperative Extension application

C. Fall work days (Sept. 23, Oct. 14, Nov. 4)

Tom has contacted the NHS advisors at both CB West and CB South.

D. Maintenance tasks (Sept. work day or before)

1. Cut back growth along trails
2. Weed-wack and hand weed around cedars and shrubs in East Meadow
3. Weed-wack and hand weed around cedars along Sunrise Trail
4. Remove hazard trees along Sunrise Trail
5. Spread stones in low areas on Pine Tree Trail
6. Spread new wood chips around benches and on Beech Tree Trail
7. Plant bed around main entrance sign

Marge shared that she will not be available for the planned 9/23 date and requested help planting the main entrance bed on 9/18 or 9/19 late afternoon. Most of the planned plants will be available by the earlier date.

8. Remove several non-native shrubs from border around Miriam's Meadow.

9. Plant additional trees/shrubs (purchased from pop-up park) around Miriam's Meadow and maybe elsewhere

E. Fall maintenance / restoration plans

1. Needed prep work

- a. Tagging of desirable plants in areas to be planted

Tom reported that he and Ann Rhoads tagged numerous trees and shrubs in the riparian area.

- b. Mowing those areas

John Emmell will be notified that the area is ready for mowing. It was suggested that the hoses in Unit I be pulled before John mows.

2. Planting opportunity with Natural Lands (Sept. 30)

Tom shared information about a volunteer opportunity to plant trees at Natural Lands' Paunacussing Preserve on 9/30. Tom suggested our participation so we may better instruct volunteers about proper tree planting on our October 14th workday.

F. DVU studies

Tom has heard from the Del Val professors who reported the studies are ongoing. They will be sharing the results of the soil studies when they become available.

G. Trail cameras

The Community Garden has returned the cameras, they can now be mounted in the Nature Preserve.

H. Miller properties / DCNR Grant

No update. Still waiting to hear about the DCNR grant.

I. Tree ID plates

No update

J. Groner Fund residual / Miriam's stock shares

Sam emailed an update. The state still hasn't posted the funds for us to apply.

K. Addendum/update to Strategic Plan

Deferred for now until after our fall work days.

III. **Deferred Items**

- A. Orphans Court ruling on uses of Groner funds
- B. Chant's Woods boundary signs
- C. Preserve map
- D. Brush mower purchase

IV. **New Business**

A. Budget update

Updated copy was distributed and reviewed. We have spent \$7,742.38 this year to date with a remaining balance of \$4757.62.

B. Tire rut damage at main entrance

During road repair on Matthews Avenue, damage occurred on Nature Preserve grass area. The area will be repaired.

C. Chant memorial plaque – proposed wording

“Chant’s Woods commemorates the life and civic contributions of long-time borough resident, Leonard James “Jim” Chant.

Born in London in 1927, Jim earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of London. In 1959, he was recruited for the burgeoning United States space program and immigrated to Pennsylvania with his wife and young children. Jim was one of the designers of the human centrifuge at the Johnsville Naval Air Station in Bucks County where the astronauts trained for the Mercury Space Missions. In 1970 inspired by the American Dream ideals of liberty and social mobility providing the opportunity for prosperity and success with hard work, Jim started his own company Chant Engineering Co. Inc.

Having created a successful internationally renowned company in New Britain Borough, Jim took the time to give back to his community. He donated land adjoining the Nature Preserve and has been a pragmatic voice of reason in New Britain Borough matters for over twenty years until his death in 2017. Jim always believed in the best in all of us and turned his intelligence, work ethic, extensive experience and respect for others to help improve our community.”

Some committee members thought this was too much verbiage, but it was decided to defer to Phil Chant’s wishes on this, as he has offered to pay for this plaque.

Discussion ensued regarding the placement of the Memorial boulder with plaque

D. Invasives

Tom shared information on Japanese Hops, which has been found along the creek in the Preserve and the Spotted Lanternfly, which has been recently discovered in the Borough. Tom talked with Brian O’Neil of Weeds Inc. who suggested a preemergent in the Spring for the Japanese Hops, which is an annual spread by seed. The Borough is awaiting notification from the Department of Agriculture regarding control suggestions for the Spotted Lanternfly.

Motion was made by Halsey to adjourn, seconded by Marge. Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm. Next Meeting is scheduled for October 9th.