

**Minutes**  
**Nature Preserve Committee**  
Monday, February 12, 2018

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

**Members Absent:** Susan Minnetti, Mimi Volker, Bob Binkley

**Also Present:** Phil Chant, Sam Bryant

**I. Approval of Minutes from January 15 Meeting**

**Motion was made by Jo to approve the January minutes; Peter seconded the motion and all approved.**

**II. Old Business**

**A. Chant's Woods**

**1. Boundary survey**

**It was reported that the boundary survey has been completed.**

**2. Memorial stone and plaque**

**It was reported the completed plaque has been delivered. The plaque is now being affixed to a stone by Bob Gilbert**

**3. Access issues**

**It was decided that Sam will ask Mark Hinterlang to create sketches of two different access possibilities:**

- a. Access from the corner where Chant's Woods meets the West Meadow. This would require obtaining an easement from one of the adjoining property owners. If this easement is secured, the stone/plaque would be placed here.**
- b. The Borough or Chant owned portion of the driveway from Sand Road. This access would necessitate creating a parking area.**

**When sketches are complete, Sam will schedule a meeting with the Marshes to discuss a possible easement. Phil Chant was in complete agreement with the proposed plan.**

**B. Maintenance tasks**

<i>Task:</i>	<i>Notes:</i>
1. Cage remaining new shrubs along borders of Miriam's Meadow	Completed
2. Spread wood chips around newly planted trees and shrubs in riparian area.	Completed
3. Cut/removes vines on tagged trees in riparian area	March 10 work day task
4. Clean out bluebird houses	
5. Install additional screech owl boxes	
6. Repair / relocate bat house in Miriam's Meadow	

7. Install trail cameras	
8. Plant three American hollies from Bowman's	
9. Remove invasive Wineberry	In progress
10. Transplant Red Cedars from Chant retention basin.	In progress. Estimated 15 remain.

**The above maintenance tasks were reviewed.**

- a. **Plans were made to install remaining boundary signs on Wednesday 2/14 at 1:00 pm.**
- b. **Plans were made to move the remaining cedars on Friday 2/16 at 1:00 pm.**

C. Spring work days (3/10, 4/7, 5/19)

**Tom reported that the work dates have been given to the high schools. Additionally, the Borough Newsletter scheduled for delivery this week contains an announcement about all three workdays.**

D. Hazard ash trees

1. Riparian area

**Tom reported hearing from Chris Gilbert today. The ground has been too wet to get his heavy equipment into the preserve. They will instead climb the trees. Plans were made to tag the trees: Jo, Halsey and Tom will meet at 8:00 am on Tuesday 2/13 to do this.**

2. Miller's Point

**It was suggested that we have Gilbert look at an infected ash tree at Miller's Point that may be a potential hazard.**

E. Penn State Cooperative Extension pollinator habitat sign

**Tom reported that the sign had arrived and Tom mounted it as previously planned.**

F. 2018 Land Ethics Award

**No word yet regarding the winner of the Award. There is a symposium on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> which Tom will attend. The Award will be presented to the winners at 1:00 pm on that day.**

G. Miller properties / DCNR Grant

**No update**

H. Orphans Court ruling on uses of Groner funds

**No update**

I. Groner Fund residual / Miriam's stock shares

**No update**

### **III Deferred Items**

- A. Preserve trail map
- B. Nature Preserve pamphlet
- C. Tree and shrub ID plates

#### IV New Business

- A. 2018 budget update

**The budget was reported and reviewed. There were no questions.**

- B. New maintenance tasks:

<i>Task:</i>	<i>Notes:</i>
1. Mulch already transplanted Red Cedars	Completed
2. Spray Red Cedars with deer repellent	Completed
3. Replant White Pine seedlings from Chant retention basin	
4. Install remaining boundary signs (Chant's Woods and Binkley's)	
5. Move shrubs in Unit I clearing	March 10 work day task
6. Install PSCE pollinator habitat sign	Completed

- 1. **It was reported that there is mulch left to use as additional transplantings are completed.**
- 2. **Tom reported spraying the new plantings with deer repellent. As recommended by Paul Tiers, the product Liquid Fence was used.**
- 3. **We will try to plant the white pine seedlings on Friday 2/16 when we transplant the remaining cedars.**

- C. Meadow mowing (Emmell)

**Tom has left a message for John Emmell about mowing the meadows before the end of this month.**

- D. Bird Town Summit on March 17 – Preserve walk-through

**The Bird Town Committee is hosting this summit at Burkhart Hall. Plans include a walk through the Preserve.**

- E. Weston property line issues:

- 1. How to hide spray-painted messages

**There were several ideas presented including a fence and a wall of hay bales. A stretch of burlap or landscape fabric seemed to be the favored alternative. Tom offered to price out what would be needed.**

- 2. Enforcement of bamboo ordinance

**Sam will handle at the Borough level.**

F. Conferences / Lecture

1. Riparian Forest Buffer Summit

**Tom is attending this DCNR summit, which is being held in State College on February 28-March 1.**

2. Land Ethics Symposium (Mar. 15)

**Tom is attending.**

3. Doug Tallamy (Mar. 22)

**Tom and Halsey are attending. The location is F&M University in Lancaster. Tom invited members of the committee to consider attending.**

G. Stewardship Plans 2018

1. **Taylor's suggestion of using live-stake plantings for controlling erosion along the banks of Cooks Creek was discussed. Taylor alerted the committee that cuttings need to be done before "budding out" in the spring. Our April work day seems to be the best time to do this.**

2. **Tom suggested we reforest the cleared area in Unit 1 with trees instead of trying to maintain this area as shrubland, as previously planned. Dave commented that this made sense ecologically. A discussion ensued about whether this would require moving the shrub seedlings already planted there in the fall. Tom made the point that moving the shrubs would make it possible to mow between the trees and that new understory shrubs could be added once the trees were established and mowing was no longer required.**

3. **Tom suggested that we don't do any new planting in the Spring. The committee supported the plan to plant addition trees and shrubs in the fall.**

4. **Discussion of this year's plans will continue at our March meeting.**

**The motion to adjourn was made by Halsey and seconded by Dave. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2018**