

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

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

**Members Absent:** Bob Binkley, Susan Minnetti, Taylor Thompson

**I. Approval of Minutes from February 12 Meeting**

**Motion was made by Marge to approve the February minutes; Halsey seconded the motion and all approved.**

**II. Old Business**

**A. Spring work days (3/24, 4/7, 5/19)**

**Work day scheduled for 3/10 was cancelled because of snow cover. Rain/snow date is 3/24. Tom reminded the committee that he will be out of town that day. Halsey will assume leadership for the work day.**

**B. Ash tree removal (Gilbert)**

**The four trees on Pine Tree Trail have been felled. The cost of \$765.00 was lower than the proposal, which was \$1025.00.**

**C. Meadow mowing (Emmell)**

**It has been too wet for Emmell to mow. Mowing will be done as soon as the weather permits.**

**D. Chant's Woods**

1. Memorial stone
2. Access

**Sam reported that Mark is still working on plans for parking along driveway.**

**E. Miller properties**

**No update. Council will be updated on latest discussions with Ken Miller in Executive Session tomorrow night.**

**F. Orphans Court ruling on uses of Groner funds**

**No update.**

**G. Weston property line issues:**

1. Spray-painted messages
2. Brush clearing
3. Enforcement of bamboo ordinance

**Tom suggested that any proposed plan to block the view be delayed until Mike Italia talks to the Westons. The planned Preserve walk-through during the Bird Town Summit on 3/17 has been changed to Pine Run Reservoir because of wet conditions in the Preserve.**

H. 2018 Land Ethics Symposium / Award 3/15

**Tom, Dave, Mimi and Jo will attend the full-day Symposium. Marge and Halsey will attend the award presentation.**

I. Other Events

1. Bird Town Summit 3/17

**No Preserve walk through as previously planned due to the wet ground.**

2. Doug Tallamy 3/22

**Tom and Halsey will attend the lecture for municipal officials in Lancaster. Tom invited committee members to join them.**

J. Preserve Trail map

**Tom reported talking with Taylor and showing her what we envision for a trail map. Taylor indicated that it is a project that she can handle for us and will prepare a proposal for the committee.**

III. **Deferred Items**

A. Nature Preserve pamphlet

B. Tree and shrub ID plates

C. Groner Fund residual / Miriam's stock shares

IV. **New Business**

A. Budget update

**The budget was reported and reviewed.**

**Tom indicated that he plans to do one more application of deer repellent.**

B. Maintenance tasks (*See separate handout*)

**The new Maintenance Task List will be updated monthly as tasks are completed or added.**

C. Borough Ash / Tree of Heaven Inventory

**The Borough is obtaining quotes from arborists to identify both Ash and Tree of Heaven trees within the Borough's public spaces. Identification of the Trees of Heaven is a first step towards coming up with a plan to address the threat from the Spotted Lanternfly.**

- D. Additional ash tree removals (Gilbert proposal)  
**Chris Gilbert evaluated the tree of concern at Miller's Point and offered a \$285.00 estimate to remove it. He also has given us a \$1785.00 estimate to remove three additional ash trees along Pine Tree Trail. It was decided to evaluate these trees after they have leafed out. Peter suggested a walk thru with the Borough liability insurer to assess what trees may pose a danger. Tom will check with Sam about the Borough's liability re. hazard trees in the Preserve.**
- E. Spotted Lanternfly signage  
**Tom showed the committee the informational metal sign that the State would like posted in the Preserve and in other Borough locales. Location of the signs was discussed. It was decided to place one at the main entrance and the other at the Landis Mill Rd. entrance. Tom will pick up several more signs for posting in Covered Bridge Park. The committee also suggested that one be posted in the parking lot at the Administration Building where some Trees of Heaven have been identified.**
- F. Live-staking project along Cook's Run  
**This project was suggested by Taylor to control erosion along Cook's Run. It was suggested that we plan this task for our May work day.**
- G. Riparian Forest Buffer Summit  
**Tom reported that the Summit was informative and beneficial and distributed materials from the summit to committee members.**
1. "Common Invasive Plants in Riparian Areas (PA Field Guide)  
**This is an online DEP resource that Tom has already sent to committee members. It can be found at:  
[https://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/subjects/streamrel\\_eaf/Docs/Invasive%20Plants.pdf](https://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/subjects/streamrel_eaf/Docs/Invasive%20Plants.pdf)**
  2. Tree-tube plantings / post planting management  
**Tom reported post planting management advice that had not been mentioned during the Force of Nature training. At the Summit, multiple speakers stressed the importance of herbicide treatments around tree shelters in both spring and summer to protect against voles. Tom will contact Natural Lands to verify that this is something they recommend.**
- H. Consult with Brian O'Neil  
**Committee agreed to have Tom consult Brian O'Neil from Weeds, Inc. about using herbicide around tree shelters.**

I. **Weed-wacker purchase**

**Tom reported the results of his investigation of a weed-wacker for use in the Preserve and proposed purchasing a Stihl weed-wacker with both grass and brush cutting pole attachments from Wehrung's Hardware. Halsey made a motion to approve the expenditure up to \$700.00 for this. The motion was seconded by Marge and approved by all.**

J. **Borough Survey Feedback**

**Halsey brought up the survey from the Borough's Town Hall meeting that Tom had previously shared with committee members -- specifically the comments by borough residents about the Nature Preserve. 61% of the respondents reported visiting the Preserve. All comments were positive, but 56% of the respondents felt there was a need to raise awareness of the Preserve.**

K. **Stewardship**

**Referring to the committee's 2017 "Stewardship Priorities and Action Plan", Tom reported that all the priorities for 2017 had been acted on. A draft copy of an updated document for 2018 was distributed.**

**Halsey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dave.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm**

**The next meeting is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**REMINDER: WORK DAY SATURDAY MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> 9AM - NOON**

