

Woodlands Committee Minutes
January 15, 2020
7:00-8:30 PM

1) Opening Round: welcome visitors with introductions

In attendance: Ben Fischler, Greg Eck, Ed James, Bryan Bruns, Stephanie Warner, Lori Dominick

2) Update from Caretaker Stephanie Warner Stephanie has been working on a common area between 8-10 Court Laurel Hill. This includes mulching and digging out invasive plants. She would like to remove Ailanthus and fill with plants including pawpaw, spice bush, white clover, Maryland Senna, chestnut, bee balm, elderberry, echinacea, burdock, etc., over time. Stephanie hosted several work days, participation has varied, and sometimes it's Stephanie and one other person. First Sunday 3-5, Third Saturdays, 10-12. We told Stephanie that funds from the Woodlands budget might be available to purchase plants for the project.

3) Administrative

- Announcements
- Next meeting – February 19th
- Accept minutes of November meeting – approved with revisions
- Accept agenda

4) There is a rotten board on the first bridge of Canyon Creek Trail. Greg will let George know. There are also some large branches/trees on the trail. Bryan and another member have been working on this.

5) Review Action Items from November Meeting

Bryan feels that Aaron and the scouts could be helpful with closing the old trail.

Lori needs clarification on the Pepco replacement trees

Greg says that we have a tent for use if we need it (plant swaps)

Bryan gave Lori books on trail maintenance that will help with the Parcel X trail reroute.

6) Report from Staff Liaison

7) Report from Board of Directors Liaison

8) Report from Chair

9) Update on status of draft Forest Preserve Stewardship Guidelines

There was a first reading and there will be a subsequent meeting.

10) Report on Parcel X Trail Re-Route Work Day 13 Jan 2020

We had a great group of nine people. Everyone had helpful input. Catherine pointed out some plants that should be saved, Ben had ideas about rerouting the trail.

11) Planning for Further Work on Parcel X Trail Re-Route

Next work day – scrape, get to the surface, add drainage, slope off to the sides, mulch. Possible project dates: 2/8 and 2/9 or 2/22 and 2/23.

12) Discussion of name for the Parcel X Trail

- Suggestions from Bryan: Hillside Tunnel Trail. Or see if Ethel can find something distinctive about the vegetation. Or call it the Qualliquawkimuck, meaning Valley in Nanticoke (an Algonquian language closely related to the local Piscataway language). There are Azaleas on the trail, so we could call it the Azalea trail.
- Hillside Tunnel Trail will be the new name.

13) Discussion of Tree Replacement

What are current policies and practices of GHI, Pepco, and the City of Greenbelt?

- Are there points on which we need more information?
- Are there needs or opportunities to be pro-active about planting of trees after tree removal, particularly in GHI common areas? (Or is this already adequately addressed by others?)

Ben will talk with Ethel, Bill and other tree experts about the trees that are being cut down and what species should replace them.

14) Recruiting New Committee Members and Caretakers

getting more involvement from GHI members

- a. Trail Walk and Snacks (Bryan & Lori)
- b. Presenters - Jason, GHI arborist, Ethel, Bill
- c. May meeting – table
- d. Appreciation party for the caretakers (Arbor Day)

15) Check-out/future agenda items/evaluation/closing round

- **List action items from this meeting**

February – work day

March – presenter, work day

April – Trail Walk/snacks Caretaker appreciation (Arbor Day) Plant Swap

May – meeting (table) work day

June – Parcel X Trail FINISH!

July -