

Woodlands Committee Minutes

January 20, 2021

5:00-6:30 PM

1) Opening Round: welcome visitors with introductions

In attendance: Ben Fischler, Lori Dominick, Bryan Bruns, Ed James, Greg Eck, Pat Holobaugh, Catherine Plaisant, Will Vormelker, Stephanie Warner, Zoe Carter-Woodbridge, Damien Ossi, Maya Robinson

2) Update on Eradication of *Ailanthus altissima* in Parcel B

Stephanie will treat the trees as discussed last month; the board has been informed. Some of the trees may need to be cut after 2022 when they die. Stephanie will document the process and report back every six months. Catherine has offered to help, and we would also like to know if there are any more of these trees in GHI. This information does not appear to be readily available from the GHI arborist.

3) Report on MLK Day of Service Work Day

Catherine: THANK YOU to all the volunteers who came to the forest cleanup event on January 18th. This was organized jointly by the Biota and the GHI Woodlands Committee. Fifteen+ volunteers (adults, teenagers and little kids) worked non-stop for almost 2 hours: unearthing trash (sometimes in deep multiple layers reminiscent of garbology studies), bagging it and carrying it back to the road 100 to 150 yards away. We worked on two main sites, generating about 25 to thirty bags. We also extracted an old rusty lawnmower, a 10 yd long metal pipe and a rusted ladder out of the woods. Greenbelt Public Works plan to pick it up on Wednesday. Bravo everyone!

4) Administrative

- Announcements
 - Welcome New Board of Directors Liaison Zoe Carter- Woodbridge
 - Next meeting –February 17 at 5pm
 - GHI MAGLEV Task Force is forming; anyone interested can contact Anna Socrates (GHI Board). The city is also forming a MAGLEV Task Force; anyone interested can contact Kevin Driscoll (City of Greenbelt Pubic Works Sept).
 - Cicada Brood X work session Jan. 27 (Lori)

At our December meeting, we decided to create a meeting or session to talk about the incoming Cicada Brood X, separately from the Woodlands Committee Meeting.

It's hard to schedule times when everyone can make it, Lori suggested Wednesday, January 27th after 6:30 pm. This would be an online meeting.

We do not all have to attend this meeting, just people who are interested in Brood X and notifying our neighbors about steps they should take. Hopefully, we can come up with something to post in the GHI E-news, the Unofficial GHI

facebook page (and maybe Greenbelters, Greenbelt Gardeners, and Greenbelt Biota), and possibly the Greenbelt News review.

Accept minutes of earlier meetings - minutes are accepted for October and November. December will roll over next month.

- Agenda accepted

5) Review Action Items from December Meeting

- Ben - reach out to Caretakers for summary of their reports ONGOING
- Ben - report to Board ONGOING
- Lori - send out map WAITING ON FEEDBACK
- Lori, Ben, Pat - reach out to caretakers DEFER TO FEBRUARY
- Ben - need email addresses for all the Caretakers DEFER TO FEBRUARY
- Ed - inform Board of plans for eradicating Ailanthus trees DONE
- Bryan- inform FPAB of plans for eradicating Ailanthus trees DONE
- Stephanie will put up a sign to inform neighbors of plans for Ailanthus eradication IN PROGRESS
- Lori will ask for a post in GHI e-News about plans for Ailanthus eradication

6) Report from Staff Liaison - The trailhead sign is here and ready to install, brush cutter ordered, reimbursements are being processed. The sign should be placed close to the sidewalk near the entrance to the Canyon Creek trail. We also need to put up the signs for the pocket gardens. Bryan will work on the signage for the trailhead sign.

7) Report from Chair We've had some questions about trees that Brightview is removing from GHI. As we understand it, Brightview only removes trees identified by GHI's contracted arborist as posing a hazard. We're checking with GHI Staff to see if there is a statement about this and what the criteria are for tree removal. Greg will follow up with GHI staff to see if there is a policy and invite someone to explain it at a future meeting.

Ben would like help with getting materials ready for the future meetings, or at least a reminder that minutes and the agenda need to be sent out.

8) Discussion of Next Steps for Bamboo Eradication Across GHI Will had questions about GHI picking up bamboo after it's been cut, which were answered (Maintenance staff will move cut bamboo from curbside locations, we just have to call to set up each pick up). Maya would like to check the size of the bamboo plots in GHI and work with the City of Greenbelt, and create a long-term plan for eradicating bamboo. Create regular days/times for Bamboo eradication projects. Needs to be well-organized, because there are some lots where there is no place to put the bamboo. Maya will pick a date and we will take it from there. Bryan brought up the point that each area will need to be maintained every year and will need to be scheduled.

9) Planning for Winter/Spring Work Days

Winter - January/ February:

- January - work session on Cicada Brood. Cicadas are coming! Cicadas can cause significant damage. Net new shrubs and trees. Lori will set up the session by email.
- Workday to work on ivy that is climbing trees. Try a workday on February 6 to work on invasives. Plan to split into groups. (Bryan and Catherine). Start with Canyon Creek Trail entrance. Please send information by January 27th and we can get it in E-news and Facebook.

Spring -

- Canyon Creek path - there are a lot of washouts along the path. We need to improve drainage.
- Set up a training class with Catherine to recognize English Ivy and other invasive vines, and differentiate them from native vines.
- Plant Swap - April
- Trail walks April

10) Continued Discussion about Tree Replacement Policy - Greg is going to reach out to GHI staff to learn what the policy (including removal and replacement) is and hopefully we'll have the opportunity to meet with the arborist and provide input on the policy.

11) Finding a Volunteer for Committee Secretary or Dividing the Tasks Among Multiple Committee Members

Lori: I've been the secretary for at least three years, and I would like to focus on other projects with the committee. The secretary position includes a lot of organizing and communication that can be divided into parts:

1. Minutes. Take minutes at meetings, send them to the chair or the committee to be approved at the next meeting. Once the minutes are approved, they need to be sent to GHI to be posted on the website. GHI Staff liaison also keeps a hard copy of the minutes.
2. Communication with Woodlands Friends. Once a month, send out an email to over 100 people about the next meeting, future work projects, and reminders about serving on the committee and volunteering to be a Caretaker.
3. Communications with GHI E-news, Unofficial GHI Facebook page, other Facebook pages as needed, and Greenbelt News Review.

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

- List action items from this meeting
 - Ben - reach out to Caretakers for summary of their reports
 - · Ben - report to Board
 - · Lori - send out map
 - · Lori, Ben, Pat - reach out to caretakers

- Lori - send out a note to GHI E-News to recruit new members, include information about communication tasks that are available.
- . Ben - need email addresses for all the Caretakers
- . Stephanie will put up a sign to inform neighbors of plans for Ailanthus eradication
- . Lori will ask for a post in GHI e-News about plans for Ailanthus eradication
- Bryan: reach to Catherine about February workday, mark location for sign for Canyon Creek trail, prepare signage for that sign, drop off tarps for Will at 52C Ridge, and submit receipts for trash bags
- Greg - reach out to GHI staff about tree removal and replacement policy.