

Woodlands Management Committee Meeting Minutes February 19, 2014

Attendees: Margaret Gossett, Cliff Miles, Jerry Uhrig, Blair Bravo

Status of 2014 Goals

I. Education

Library

Jerry discussed with the Head Librarian the possibility of having a small collection of key Woodlands reference books available in the Borough Library for improved accessibility. It does appear to be workable so Jerry is assembling a small collection of books for this purpose.

Centennial Cove Project

Martha attended a Council meeting in December to emphasize the importance of this project to the Woodlands Committee. It is of inestimable value as an example to residents of how to plant a riparian buffer that is both functional and aesthetically and environmentally valuable. As Head of the Centennial Cove Committee, Margaret is in the process of identifying areas where the Cove Garden needs regeneration and sprucing up. Her plan for this effort is attached at the end of these minutes.

Town-Wide Clean-Up

Councilmen Lester and Holmberg have been planning a town-wide clean-up for this spring. The Woodlands Committee supports such a project as an important component of our Education Program. Giving Borough residents the opportunity to share in the effort of caring for our common lands will instill a sense of ownership that is difficult to gain otherwise in this busy world.

Centennial Chestnut Project

Our American chestnut project is now in its third year. Seeds from the first two years have sprouted into seedlings that are soon to become saplings, some of which are likely to survive the blight that has so decimated the population over the past century. A viable American chestnut population will be our gift to succeeding generations. A substantial part of this effort is supported by our High School students. These students, in their later years, will share with their children and grandchildren the fruits of their efforts. The Woodlands Committee is pleased to be a part of this activity.

II. Management

Reforestation

This year's activities will see another 100 hardwood seedlings and 100 shrubs planted in areas of our woodlands where they are needed. This will be mostly in the areas of Richard Wilcox Park that were flooded by the beaver habitat for five years or so. We lost many red maples and spicebush shrubs so these are the species selected for replanting this year. We will explore gathering support from various individuals and service groups in our area. Last year, we had very helpful and constructive projects with the Cub Scouts, the Community Church, and the AT&T Pioneers. This year we would like to have some interested individuals and possibly a different service group from another company.

UBNJ Deer Management Program

Another successful year is winding down. The season ends in mid-February. We are managing to keep the population at a sustainable level.

Invasive Vegetation Removal

Last year we removed a substantial amount of Chinese wisteria from the Borough lot at Crane and Morris. This year we will continue efforts at this site, as well as work on the more widely dispersed species, barberry, burning bush, bittersweet, and knotweed. The latter, although widely dispersed, does tend to grow in dense patches that lend themselves to concentrated effort.

Trails Management

We discussed possible approaches to managing our trails. Since it does require some expertise, we might benefit from having an outside service organization involved. There does seem to be some interest in having an Adopt-a-Trail program. But this would require strong management to gain any benefit from it.

Submitted February , 2014
Jerome L. Uhrig, Chairman
Woodlands Management Committee