

Minutes, Eco-Friendly Landscape Committee
August 26, 2020, 7 pm

“Protect, maintain and enhance the conservation of the neighborhood’s natural and scenic resources.”

Attending Violette Blumenthal, Scott Carter, Leslie Fiddler (chair and sect’y), Denise Frizzell, Bill Gardiner, Joseph Moran, Lynn Richardson (vice-chair). TR O’Neill hosted.

Moved by Scott, seconded by Lynn, that the June 24, 2020 minutes be approved as presented.

Communications Lynn is doing outreach to sub-HOA’s and the ARB. She is preparing landscaping guidelines for presentation to the ARB, they will be shared with the EFLC for input. Chimney Ridge and Homeplace III have done Audubon HOA audits. TR said that the HOA’s ability to communicate with residents is temporarily limited.

Business arising

- Ivy League continues, in Fortune’s Ridge only.
- Highgate Circle grassy knoll. Leslie asked why isn’t this landscape feature being maintained? This question will be asked of the board.

Project proposals

- Durham Wetlands Observation Park. Pat Murray spoke to his process of gathering support, and his plan to have this project listed in the City’s park proposal process. He suggested that the landscapers give up their locked compound which is close to the proposed park and on Woodcroft property.
- tree canopy inventory. Denise Frizzell and Joe Moran described the HP III experience. Motivated by a desire to best manage their tree canopy, HP III volunteers are identifying and mapping HP III. Using Google Maps, I-Tree Canopy estimates ground coverage for a given area with a random sampling process. Multiple ground cover types can be mapped (e.g. trees, grasses, roofs, pavement). Lynn offered to make this project the subject of an upcoming newsletter.

Invasive plant pilot project update Lynn, Scott and TR are developing a volunteer training process; bamboo is its current target. Leslie expressed concern at the speed of the process, the volume of invasive plants, and frustration with the lack of attention to invasive plants at the east end of the parkway.

Plant native

1. Erosion control. Durham Soil and Water Conservation’s June 2020 assessment of the path between Fortune’s Ridge and HP III recommends replacing turf with shade tolerant grasses; also, re-engineering a drain. Cost sharing requires minimum 10’ vegetative buffer on either side of stream; sometimes it’s there but not always. Stakeholders: Woodcroft HOA, HP III, some residences. TR

suggested that Allan Gracey, landscape architect, could make appropriate groundcover recommendations.

2. Fall native plant sale with vendor Field to Cottage. Erosion theme. Order deadline Oct. 3, plant delivery Oct. 10. Sandee Washington is designing the poster.
3. The +20 Maryland Asters being nurtured by Violette are doing fine. Leslie's are being eaten. Her 9 coneflower transplants are fine. They are not true species.

Announcements

1. The board has asked landscape architect Allan Gracey to remove invasive and plant native in the monuments and the Fayetteville native bed.
2. *NATURE'S BEST HOPE* An online presentation by Doug Tallamy. Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can- and must- take to reverse declining biodiversity and will explain why we, ourselves, are nature's best hope. Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 8 p.m. \$10 non-members, members free. Pre-register at Sarah P. Duke Gardens.