

Forest Stewardship Special Committee

1/15/24 Meeting Notes

Ivy Pull Event

We'll hold an ivy pulling event. Will hold on Sunday, January 28 at 1pm, weather permitting. If not, the backup date is Sunday, February 11. Sign up with contact info will be passed around at the 1/18 village meeting. Depending on numbers, may have one or more sites. Chair Ardencroft will create a sign-up sheet, put something in The Page, and send an email out to residents we have emails for.

Village Meeting Report

acgruswitz@gmail.com will adapt a January Village Meeting report from the [prior meeting's report](#).

Plant Inventory

Will Ryan, a plant ecologist and Ardentown resident, is putting together an estimate for conducting a comprehensive inventory of all plant species on non-leasehold spaces in the 3 Ardens with a couple other associates of his. This was done 20+ years ago and needs to be updated as a baseline existing conditions study preceding any plans for protecting and improving our local ecology. With the inventory will come an online map platform that the villages can access in order to view what species the team has located on the map (their mapping will not be as comprehensive as their list). Villages can also add to the map any significant trees on leaseholds or identify clusters of invasives, like ivy patches, as well as locations that have been treated in some way or where planting occurs (dates and notes can be added). Rough estimate of cost was in the \$15k to \$20k range for three villages. Cost splitting may be divided by land area of the villages or land area of non-leasehold space. More discussion/coordination needs to occur between the villages. acgruswitz@gmail.com will set up a meeting soon and see about recurring (perhaps quarterly) meeting scheduling for general inter-Ardens coordination.

Powerline Area Plans for 2024

Important to get an estimate on spreading pre-emergent for a likely February or March application. acgruswitz@gmail.com will get Red Tail contact from Elaine and ask her thoughts on the best way to do it when contacting about the plant inventory meeting. scott@ronfrancis.com will contact Wayne to think through a way to delineate the 30' wide easement in March. May mow/whack the easement. lisa@lisasurbrook.com is now teaching at WMS and can work to better integrate activities with the school.

TEDI Grant

We received a grant for 3 out of 4 projects in our TEDI application. Total funding is \$28,703. Will go towards a fall planting of 125 trees on either side of powerline easement in Ardencroft, 75 trees in surrounding forests and pathways of Ardencroft (especially bolstering areas with greater beech density with more diverse species), and 40 trees for Harvey Mill Park, upstream from the Ardens on Naamans Creek where the creek is not shaded. A revised scope of work and other items like proof of insurance will be provided to DNREC soon. We'll work with Davey Tree in the coming months to plan for the work and we'll work with WMS, Ardens residents, scout troops, etc. to get volunteers for the planting not done by Davey.

Transition to Standing Environment Committee

Assuming the Village votes positively to reconfigure committees as proposed at the January Village Meeting, lisa@lisasurbrook.com will begin joining the Coordinating Committee meetings in March as we look to set a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. scott@ronfrancis.com and lisa@lisasurbrook.com will serve a year on the new committee while 3 more are elected and can choose to run for the 2 spots open the following year.