

WG Conservation Meadow Committee Meeting June 19 2024

In attendance; Georgette Cole, Bruce Daggy, Joan Mahaffey, Donna Shriner, Anne Vincent, Kriss Grisham

The agenda was approved by consensus. Minutes from the April 2024 meeting were approved by consensus. No public appearances.

Tree Reduction Update: Parks is committed to reducing the number of red cedars in the Conservation Meadow but to date Ryan Colliton has not found the funds (and is not optimistic about doing so) to hire a contractor. If necessary, Parks will use internal resources, but that could take longer to do the work. Therefore, we have been exploring whether the contractor could be paid for via a Pepco Environmental Stewardship grant. Pepco expects to make 8 such grants, up to \$10,000 each; the application deadline is July 12. Audrey obtained quotes from Tom Laws. Laws would charge \$150 per tree or \$2200 per day to fell and chip the cedars, if the chips can be left to decay in the woods. Bruce asked Ryan about this approach. Ryan is supportive of our applying for the grant, but unsure if leaving the chips in the woods would be acceptable. He's called for another meeting in the meadow to decide which trees are to be removed and consider disposal options.

Actions:

- 1) Bruce to schedule meeting with Ryan [Update: that meeting is now set for Monday, June 24 at 9 am. All welcome to join that meeting.]
- 2) Joan to investigate whether the Woods Committee could use the cedar chips.
- 3) If a decision is made to apply for the Pepco grant, Ernie and Bruce will draft the application to meet the July 12 deadline. This would require clarification of the wood chip disposal costs if any and the cost of removing the Bradford pear behind Donna Shiner's house. Possibly there would also be an opportunity to complete some work in the lower meadow.

Next Weed Warrior event: The next WW event is scheduled for Saturday, July 13. We agreed to an 8:30 am start. Bruce will meet with Silvia on Friday, June 28 at 9 am to pick the focus (invasive plant(s) and location) for the event. All welcome to join that discussion on the 28th. This event will be open to volunteers 16 and older, with SSL hours available.

Joan asked if we could seek clarification on what steps are required to establish a local WW group, to facilitate reporting of service hours.

Actions:

- 1) Bruce to confirm start time with Silvia and request registration page setup and ask if there are any administrative steps necessary to establish a local WW group (Done).
- 2) Bruce to send out notices (Meadows Committee, Listserv, bulletin) about the WW event and contact those who can get word out about SSL hours.

Bluebird Trail: Ryan explained how the bluebird data collected over recent years by Ken Shapiro could be submitted to Parks via the Audubon Society app. Ken has agreed to do this and Bruce put Ken in contact with Ryan. Bruce offered to build some new nest boxes over the winter and Ken said

this would be useful. Perhaps other wood workers in the Grove would also be interested in this project. A good design is found here: <https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/birds/eastern-bluebird/>. According to Ken, he has had good success with a 1-1/2 inch circular hole, an easier option than the oval hole in the Nestwatch plan.

Date of next meeting: 17 July 2024 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. A reminder will be circulated with the link.

Committee adjourned 7:56 pm.