

TNC Meeting September 21, 2021 – 6:30pm via Zoom

Attendance: Beth Caldwell, Emily Eisbruch, Elizabeth Morehead, Pam O’Neal

1. Financial-only expenditures with plants on Conboy Trail – account should be over \$ 13K.
2. Committee updates- Heather Good and Cathleen Adams are no longer on committee. Start looking to fill those positions this year.
3. Calendar of Events for the year – OHMHA & Thurston PTO have asked TNC to participate in Fall / October Halloween night walk events around the pond/ woods. **Board voted via email and approved.**
4. Land Stewards: would like \$250 for some low aggressive spreaders for the Conboy Trail entrance to cover the ground while the shrubs fill in. Canada anemone, wild petunia, wild geranium, common cinquefoil -- the latter two may need to be potted, the others are available as seed. **Board voted via email and approved.**
5. Butterfly-Rain Garden: Stewards would like to purchase mulch for the garden area to help with weed control and grass encroachment. They are thinking 5 yards. They plan to use cardboard underneath it in certain areas. Sandy Breck will be stepping down as steward for the rain garden. Asked Katie to find a new steward. **Board voted via email and approved.**
6. The Thurston Nature Center is now a designated monitoring site for butterflies as a part of the Michigan Butterfly Network Butterflies found in Thurston Nature Center this summer included: Monarchs (3), Eastern tiger swallowtails (1), pearl crescents (3), cabbage whites (10), clouded sulphurs (2), banded hairstreak (1), Peck’s skippers (2), Harvester (1). The Harvester was a special surprise find! Its caterpillar is the only North American one that eats insects rather than plants. It eats woolly aphids that grow on willows or alders like those we have in TNC. The Harvester has also been found in a small number of other Ann Arbor parks.
7. Plantwise LLC came in and treated phragmites along pond this fall.
8. Gabriel Hennebury’s eagle scout project is done in the rain/butterfly garden.
9. Tom Tan will be doing his eagle scout later this month. He has asked if committee will donate money towards the project. Plants in Oak Hickory woods. \$ 305.73 total cost, Tom has paid down payment \$ 76.43. He has received donations of \$ 25.00. Elizabeth will ask Holly about funds left over from previous Eagle Scout project to re-donate. **Board discussed via email and have not approved donation at this time.**
10. Open pond area on north side of pond: Praveena has offered to help put up fencing and signs to help restore this area of the pond. Sandy Breck and Elizabeth have been looking into sharing seeds and potentially plants from the gardens to that location as well. We can begin to work on this now that fall is come and get the area ready for additional plants if we choose. **Board voted via email and approved.**

11. AAPS JASON BING: "I hope this message finds you well. I'm following up on our emergency work out at Thurston Pond. To this point, we have introduced the preferred seed mixes for restoration. Can you folks provide some input on what kind of additional support you would like to request from the district for restoration work?"
Elizabeth suggested a path through that area, to avoid people walking along back Thurston playground area.
12. Thurston elementary: don't need any additional tables or benches currently, as the TNC is too far for the kids to go for lunchtime.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:02 pm

Next meeting via Zoom – October 7th.