

Thurston Nature Committee Meeting

Tuesday May 14, 2024

7:30 pm @ Thurston Library

Attendance: Praveena Ramasami, Jeff Hamilton, Pam O'Neal, Amy Creten, Michael Tucker, Jim Vallem, Holly Zechar, Beth Caldwell, Colin Brooks, Emily Eisbruch, Libby Benton, Maureen McCoy, Harrison Tucker, Phill Hanna, Leslie Smith, Jack Cederquist, Rachel Oram, Kathy Borysko

- **Update on the boundary marking:**

- TNC Land Marker Project - Praveena will email proposal document to the committee.
- Proactively informing neighbors and neighborhood at large about land owned by AAPS and OHAC
- Phase 1:
 - Propose to distribute a letter explaining the property line to each home along the TNC pond explaining the boundaries.
 - Posters in TNC kiosks, social media, and newsletters with information on the initiative
 - Workdays for installation and collecting funds for preserving the land.
 - Engage area community to facilitate workdays to place markers, signage, and clearing on non-native species plantings.
 - 25 houses with 2-3 stakes per house property.
 - May-June workdays to clear land and send letter notices. June-July stake grounds.
- Motion made to approve and move forward with Phase 1, property markers and letters. TNC budget \$ 300/ OHAC to match funds. The committee will review letter before distribution to homes along TNC pond.
- The committee voted and approved the motion.

- **Update on the Flooding – Jason Bing – AAPS**

- AAPS has worked on repairing the berm and the broken storm water pipe, acknowledge the water may accumulate from time to time going forward on the path/ flooded area.
- AAPS will not be moving forward with any additional drains/ work to fix the flooding issue, will install signage noting an alternative path and marking AAPS property line around northern property.
- The county/ drain commission may play a role/be involved in the future.
- Committee requested a meeting with Jason Bing to discuss issues with the TNC.

- **Steward's report:**

- Samuel Fort proposes an Eagle Scout project to build raised walkways around the TNC, Corner NE side.
 - Proposal still to come, anticipate work to be done in Summer 2024.
 - Needs to get approval from Eagle Scouts and AAPS district to proceed.
 - Potentially need OHAC permission as well.
 - Possibly solicit funds from OHAC and TNC.
- Burn done in Hickory Woods.
- Looking for various invasive mustard plants.
- Wood chips on Prairie Court.
- May 29 – Jim giving tour for Wild Ones.
- Seeds planted by both Jim and Michael.
- Workday for distributing wood chips in wet areas – date TBD by land stewards

- **Communication (Emily):**
 - Pam will send Emily meeting minutes for posting on the TNC website
 - Emily and Jeff will work on newsletter to be distributed in June 2024

- **Tour – plan for new Thurston building**
 - Committee looked at proposed new Thurston area
 - Committee wants to have a meeting with AAPS/ Jason Bing asap to discuss concerns.