

## Thurston Nature Committee Meeting

May 14, 2024

7:30 pm @ Thurston Library

Attendance: Praveena Ramaswami, 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, Phil Hanna ( and his wife, did not get name) , 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 Director of Capital Programs**

- Jeff met with Jason Bing to discuss: 1) the lower ponding area that is impacting the west N/S path; 2) site survey and staking to support neighbor/backyard encroachment on pond 3) upcoming plans and timing for a new Thurston and 4) further discussions around project plans and collaboration.
- 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, noting permitting, feasibility and cost.

- AAPS 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. Date TBD.
- **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 approval for the project from his scout troop, and from the local scout council.
      - 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
    - Rachel Oram has been elected as PTO president for next year. There will be a vacancy for pond steward position.
- **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 with proposed area for new Thurston.
    - Group noted need for keeping record of correspondence with AAPS regarding any info related to the pond and new building.

**Next Meeting:**

