

MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, JULY 21, GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER

Chairperson Mudrock called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT WERE Advisory Board members Ginny Mudrock, Donna Hoffmeister, Ruth Kastner and Damien Ossi, Joe Murray, and Susan Gregersen.

ALSO PRESENT was Lesley Riddle, Assistant Director of Parks and Grounds and Amy Hofstra, Community Planner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved without change.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: No minutes were approved.

FP REGULATORY SIGN:

Ms. Mudrock informed the Board that the regulation was easily passed by Council. In addition, Mayor Davis thanked the group for their good work. Mr. Putens also asked that a phone number or website be added to the sign. Ms. Mudrock preferred a website. Mr. Ossi suggested a phone number also be listed so that residents might report dumping when they say it occurring. Ms. Mudrock volunteered to get the appropriate number from Ms. Craze.

FP ENTRANCE SIGNS:

The Board asked Ms. Riddle to select a leaf for each section of the preserve and to create plastic stencils. Ms. Mudrock also asked that the first signs installed be located at Northway.

STILT GRASS EXTACTION AT NORTH WOODS TRACT:

Ms. Riddle suggested that Mr. Ossi contact Andrew Phelan about recruiting volunteers.

NORTH WOODS TRACT TRAIL EROSION:

Ms. Mudrock intended to invite Mr. Barres to the next meeting, but in the meantime, suggested the Board members go to 10 Ct. Plateau to view the erosion taking place along the trail. In the past, GHI had done some work along trails in the preserve to mitigate erosion. Ms. Kastner reminded the Board that the regulations do not prohibit mitigation of erosion; however the work should be done only by authorized individuals so that it is done properly. Ms. Riddle discussed appropriate materials such as large logs for diverting water flow and wood chips for covering bare ground. Ms. Riddle indicated that she would like to get some volunteers to help address erosion along the trails. Ms. Mudrock volunteered to work with Ms. Riddle on future restoration projects.

ANNUAL WALK WITH LESLEY:

Ms. Mudrock and Ms. Riddle told the Board about their walk through Belle Point on June 24th where they found construction waste being dumped. Ms. Riddle said she would follow up with Code Enforcement.

PUMPKIN WALK ACOUSTIC CONCERT:

Alison Smith, who organizes the pumpkin walk, asked the Board if they had any objections to an acoustic concert which will be held near the GHI gardens on property within the preserve. Mr. Murray noted that Ms. Smith should bring in portable toilets. Ms. Kastner noted that they should be sure to clean up after. A motion that the Board support the concert was approved. Ms. Smith should contact Ms. Craze for regulations and forms.

PESTICIDE USE AT GARDEN PLOTS:

Ms. Riddle informed the Board that she had discussed this issue with the garden club and felt that many members would be reluctant to discontinue the use of pesticides. Ms. Riddle explained to the Board that there is an internal policy against the use of pesticides on City property. As the Council has not formally adopted such an ordinance, Ms. Riddle does not have jurisdiction over garden club members who would like to use pesticides. The Board decided that it would not be appropriate to weigh in on this issue at this time, but consider a request to the Council to meet with the garden club instead.

JANET HAGELGAN'S REPORT ON FOREST PRESERVE ACTIITIES:

First, Mr. Murray clarified where the boundaries of the forest preserve are located. Many Board members were troubled to see that so much trash is being left behind in the preserve. Mr. Ossi mentioned that he has seen many commercial landscapers dumping at the City's compost site. Ms. Riddle informed him that only two commercial landscapers were authorized to use that site. Mr. Murray mentioned that some City residents may have been told that they can dump their yard debris at that location. Ms. Mudrock felt that the reports required some follow up from the Board. The Board asked Ms. Hagelgan to continue to send weekly reports and to prepare a final report summarizing her observations at the end of the season. The Board would then review the report and determine what actions might be necessary. Ms. Hagelgan was also asked to send the reports to Ms. Riddle.

DISCUSSION ON TICKS:

Mr. Murray informed the Board that the concentration of ticks was increasing because it had been several years since any active management program had been in place. Ms. Riddle indicated that she would speak with a colleague from Goddard regarding their tick control methods using deer traps.

INVASIVES CONTROL BLUEBERRY HILL:

Mr. Murray recently learned that the pine barrens on blueberry hill are very unique because they do need fire burns. Ms. Mudrock suggested that Blueberry Hill be added to the list of locations targeted for future restoration work.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Board was set for Wednesday August 24th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Hofstra

These minutes were approved by a vote of 6-0.

APPROVED