

Town of Laurel Park

Parks and Greenways Board: Invasive Species Committee

March 6, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Town Hall Meeting Room

Robert Fain - Chair
Anne Hartig - Member
Paula Thum - Member

John McGregor - Member
Laurel Crowell - Member

Absent: Todd Gizzi, Anne Hartig
Also Present: Brandon Johnson, Will Coffee
Guest: Jeff Heath

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Robert Fain.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Agenda unanimously approved by committee members.

There were no additions to the agenda and the agenda was approved.

3. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the January 3, 2024 Meeting:

January 3, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed by the committee and approved by Robert Fain and seconded by Paula Thum. (The February 7, 2024 meeting was not held.)

5. Report from Will Coffee:

Will has been working in the heavily vines area that is behind the pollinator garden on Lake Drive. He was able to identify the boundary markers and has concern about the area that is privately owned and borders that property as to whether the landowner should be approached to see if where the 2 properties meet can be cleared together

5. Report from Will Coffee continued:

John Mcgregor will approach the land owner to discuss with them the possible future clearing of the land.

The pollinator garden park on Lake Drive is planning a volunteer work day in March.

Will has accepted a position with the Pisgah Conservancy that will begin on 3/25/24 and will be Monday-Friday 8-4 for a one year eight month period. He would be available for consulting, discussions and to work with volunteer groups when possible.

Laurel Park does have a separate herbicide license vs. losing the usage of Will's license

Todd will continue to work removing invasives in Laurel Park in the future.

Will estimates that approximately 50-75% of the Laurel Park right of ways have been cleared.

6. Report from Parks and Greenway liaison John McGregor:

There is a possible volunteer work day in May. It was suggested that the group meet at Town Hall at 10AM. John will coordinate this with Parks and Greenways.

7. Old Business:

Update on bulk mailing. The cost would be nineteen cents for each letter and the estimated cost would be approximately \$300.

8. New Business:

The sign that Will and Todd were using at work sites to show that invasives were being removed is too large to fit in regular vehicles and easily move from site to site. Robert Fain will call Ilene to check on having small signs that would fit on the realtor type of signs to be placed out at work sites.

Alex Carmichael will be invited to the April 3rd meeting to discuss future plans with Will Coffee now being employed elsewhere.

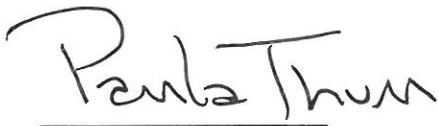
Steve Pettis, Jr., NC Cooperative Extension agent will do a presentation on Environmentally Friendly Landscaping, Tree Health and Firewise at the Congregational Church on 5th Avenue on March 28th from 1-3PM.

Jeff Heath will be joining the Invasive Species Committee as a new member. He was nominated by Robert Fain and approved by all committee members.

9. Next Meeting: April 3, 2024 @ 10AM

10. Adjournment: 1045

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Thum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Paula Thum