

**Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens
Board Meeting – January 11, 2013**

Attending: Anna Hull, David Ross, Henry Whitesel

Time Sensitive Action Items

February 9: Planning meeting with local landowners.

Next Board Meetings: Fridays March 1 and 29, 4-6pm, location TBD.

David will contact Marci to schedule Brian and Kristine to lead an hour governance workshop as part of the March 1 or 29 Board Meeting.

Henry will draft this year's annual report, informing Marci if it will be a few days late.

Henry to invite the Hannums to February 9 landowner planning meeting and verify that the other invitations have gone out.

All: Review draft descriptions for chair, vice chair, secretary and media outreach coordinator

Molly Anderson to set up a conference call with Henry and the appropriate Elk Township supervisor before February 9 planning meeting to discuss ATV and other concerns.

FSLSB brochure

Anna to bring copy to March 1 board meeting

Henry to look for copy on his computer.

David to email Patrick Hurley at Ursinus College to see when there might again be interest in bringing a group of students down for a workday

Add to February 9 Agenda

Protecting Chrome from ATV use

Availability of someone certified to apply herbicide to Russian olive during May, June and July workdays at Chrome.

Might additional scraping at Chrome be an option?

Does Elk host a clean-up day in spring; FSLSB could volunteer to pick up trash along road.

Ask Ray Haden if Camp Horseshoe might host Americorps volunteers summer 2013 or 2014

Goat Hill – review work program.

New Texas:

Need to be honest with Hannums that we value the property but that it is hard to find enthusiastic volunteers when there is pessimism over long-term preservation of the land.

Raise the possibility of scraping.

Other Action Items

Mike Bertram will continue upgrading website including archiving old annual reports.

Plant Monitoring.

Anna to discuss with David Royer.

David Ross to discuss with William Ryan and Mike Bertram.

Anna to meet with Ed Herr about volunteer activities. At this time, she will share the plant monitoring and hike coordinator job descriptions and discuss workday volunteer opportunities.

Membership/Media Outreach

Anna to establish connection with new Oxford Public Library director

Anna to mention FLSB with OMI secretary.

Need a board member to work with Henry to draft a description of the range of tasks and responsibilities for workday volunteers.

Meeting Notes

We set Friday March 1 and Friday March 29 as dates for the next two Board Meetings.

We began by reviewing the November 16 Action Items.

Obtaining assistance in strengthening board governance remains a high priority.

David will contact Marci to schedule Brian and Kristine to lead an hour governance workshop as part of the March 1 or 29 Board Meeting.

Mike Bertram will post the hike and plant monitoring coordinator job

descriptions.

Done.

Plant Monitoring:

Anna and David Royer would prefer to do plant monitoring in Nottingham, but will discuss doing other sites. In principle, Jay Gregg takes responsibility for plant monitoring in the park.

The basic strategy is to mark 10-12 locations with rebar spikes, then go in at least once a year (Mike Bertram did this in early fall) and do a plant census in a one-square yard zone. It would be nice to do this more frequently to generate richer context about each site.

Mick Economos might be willing to help with the labor

David will follow up with William Ryan (University of Delaware).

Hike coordinator:

We want to keep this in mind as we encounter new volunteers who are looking for ways to help.

Henry gave Rose copies of both descriptions.

Mike Bertram and Bob Barker are fall back candidates to lead October 6 hike; but we hope to have a coordinator in place by then.

Henry will draft this year's annual report

May be a tad late. Next year we will seek a volunteer to take on this task; largely a matter of pulling together Henry's excellent email summaries of workday activities.

Kent will contact Molly Anderson to coordinate timing of next year's planning meeting with landowners.

Scheduled for 9-2 on February 9
Molly handling logistics including lunch
Henry to invite the Hannums

David and Henry will schedule a meeting with Jay Gregg to discuss our partnership at Nottingham Park.

Met January 9 to develop 2-year plan.
Assured by Jay that we will be working on serpentine restoration areas

Henry will coordinate with Molly to discuss our Chrome concerns with Elk Township

Best strategy now might be for Molly to set up a conference call with Henry and the appropriate Elk Township supervisor
ATV use on far side on both trails
Use huge boulders to block entrances

Mike Bertram will draft planning document to circulate for January planning meeting

Done (see below)

Kent will edit PPF descriptions for chair, vice chair, secretary and media outreach coordinator.

Done. We will review for next Board Meeting

Mike Bertram will contact Brittany at PPF to explore ways of enhancing the flexibility of our Web site.

Mike emailed that this is under control. Still hopes to find a way of archiving old annual reports.

Review 2013/14 FLSB Objectives and Set Priorities

Organizational Development – fill Chairman and other Board positions; fill other positions (e.g. plant monitoring coordinator)

Deferred to board development meeting in March

Develop procedures for tackling invasives over a greater part of the year (autumn olive needs to be controlled before it sets seed).

Agreed that Chrome is the first priority find someone certified to do poisoning – May, June or July is the ideal time.

Will raise this during February 9 meeting

Bob Barker or George Gress could do it.

Could Elk Township provide someone?

Generate and implement a plan to use Americorp volunteers (provided through TNC) in restoration efforts. Possible activity locations include Nottingham and Goat Hill. Questions that need to be addressed include how would the volunteers be managed, and where would they be accommodated.

Will discuss with Molly Anderson, but we think it more realistic to plan this for summer 2014.

Need accommodate 10-12 people

Anna will keep eyes open for options at Lincoln University
Camp Horseshoe (boy scouts) seems the ideal location; discuss on
February 9 with Ray Haden

Henry excited about supervising the work. We started brainstorming tasks with a particular focus on Chrome.

Blazing trails and repositioning circumference trail
Create trail map & brochure (like that for Rose trail)
Expanding restoration areas

Membership Campaign –plan and implement a membership campaign. Possibilities include a presentation in Oxford, PA, to the Arts Alliance to publicize our organization and activities. We do have one brochure that we will print and post in the Oxford OMI Chamber of Commerce and around town in various places.

Next steps in this long-term goal:

Anna to bring copy of current brochure to next Board meeting
Henry to look for it on computer

Maintain connections with Oxford Public Library including the expectation that the Library will archive our records and offer display space for serpentine educational material.

Anna and David Royer will be revising research grant application that includes a substantial educational component. As part of that effort, she will be in touch with the new Library Director.

Research grant focused on characterizing the microbial community in the Mystery Hole; what are the limitations on building fresh water microbial communities; the input into the quarry or the chemical conditions of the quarry. Part of the grant involves educating the community about the ecology.

Development of grant would occur May-August

Anna will bring up FSLSB in conversation with OMI secretary.

Meet with volunteers from Herrs to see how we can join forces and create restoration opportunities.

Anna to meet with Ed Herr about volunteer activities. At this time, she will share the plant monitoring and hike coordinator job descriptions and discuss workday volunteer opportunities.

Reconnect with Dr. Patrick Hurley's environmental class from Ursinus College.

David to send email asking if there might be a class opportunity for the spring.

Chrome

TNC has full management permission – Americorps or DeLoitte would be ideal for this site.

Upper Chrome has sustained substantial ATV traffic lately which has made the trails impassable in places.

Discuss February 9

The serpentine area in the northwest corner of Upper Chrome has been invaded by saplings and other non-serpentine plants. The growing depth of the soil layer may mean that 'cut & drag' will no longer be effective and that scraping will be needed to restore the serpentine area.

Discuss scraping option on February 9

Collect trash along Barrens Road

Is there a clean up day

Continue herbiciding autumn olive, and other invasive species
Develop plan to reduce invasives along stream and other places at Upper & Lower Chrome

Clarify with Mike exactly where this needs to be done,

Improve trail; shift trail away from ATV area
brochure

Americorps project

Goat Hill

Planned Response

Herbicide locust trees, autumn olive, Ailanthus, & other invasive species.

Areas to the NE of area L in TNC land

Develop and implement a plan for the scraped areas include re-evaluate the need for monitoring of the second scraped area.

Part of plant monitoring initiative.

Continue working on clearing grasslands on Bureau of Forestry land.

Part of regular workday schedule

Develop and implement a plan to reduce invasives along Red Pump Road (lower priority).

Additional trails in forestry land - from n trail to k

Clear areas near power lines

Ongoing

New Texas

Situation

240 acres – a great example of Serpentine

Planned Response

Perform maintenance work on existing grasslands using 'cut and drag' techniques. During the winter the focus will be on the northern grasslands.

Need to be honest with Hannums that we value the property but that it is hard to find enthusiastic volunteers when there is pessimism over long-term preservation of the land.

Attempt to develop a restoration plan in conjunction with the owners for the restoring of areas where the soil depth makes 'cut and drag' no longer effective.

Raise the possibility of scraping.

Nottingham County Park

Situation

Restoration activities have drifted off track to be general green briar reduction efforts.

Feel more confident after meeting with Jay Gregg

Pilot

Support the burn program and help with restoration of the Serpentine area in the Girl Scouts tract by scheduling restoration activities in conjunction with TN

Clear the firebreaks before burn

Henry continues to feel burdened by having to carry a number of the administrative burdens of managing our organization

We urged him to set aside and not worry about all responsibilities except those absolutely necessary to getting through the next few months.

He is comfortable continuing to chair board meetings for the moment.

Among the urgent tasks he would like to shed:

Compiling a description of workday volunteer responsibilities.

Contacting landowners and other stakeholders.