

MINUTES OF THE HORTICULTURE STANDING COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the MetroParks Farm, September 24, 2018

Present: Deby Clark, Doug Pezzuto, Monica Parkhurst, Pam Garver, Kelly Bowell, Janice Arch and Ellen Speicher

Absent: Andrew Pratt

Guests: none

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes from the August 27, 2018 meeting were approved with no additions or corrections.

Discussion ensued about the Horticulture Committee's discovery of Beech Leaf Disease on numerous American Beech trees in the Lanterman's Mill area during our walk-through on August 27, 2018. A motion was made and seconded that the Committee should make a statement at the next Board Meeting to clarify that this discovery was made by the Horticulture Standing Committee. Motion passed.

Old Business

At the Board meeting on September 10, 2018, Aaron Young announced that three MetroParks staff members are interested in taking an on-line course to prepare for taking the certified arborist exam. There was no mention of scheduling any hands-on training.

A suggestion was made that until the MetroParks has a trained arborist working throughout the park that perhaps there should be a designated number of hours that Andrew Pratt should be scouting throughout the park and working with the Operations staff when they are doing tree work, as he is the only certified arborist currently on staff.

No information was available on the construction schedule for the new high tunnel.

The Natural Resources Steward will be invited to a meeting to discuss the goals and priorities of this position. Questions of concern to the Horticulture Committee include removal of invasive plants, whether the MetroParks currently has a policy of invasive plant removal and whether volunteers will be utilized in this capacity.

New Business

Goals for 2019 were discussed. The summary of the Committee's activities for 2018 will be discussed at the October meeting.

The pesticide records for the MetroParks will be brought to the next meeting for review by the Committee.

Regular meetings will now be held at 6:00 p.m. on the 4th Monday of each month, unless the date needs to be changed to accommodate member's schedules.

The next Horticulture Committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 22, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the MetroParks Farm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Ellen Speicher