

MINUTES OF THE HORTICULTURE STANDING COMMITTEE  
Meeting held at the MetroParks Farm, November 28, 2018

Present: Deby Clark, Doug Pezzuto, Pam Garver, Kelly Bowell, Janice Arch, Ellen Speicher and Andrew Pratt (ex officio)

Absent: Monica Parkhurst (excused absence)

Guests: Nick Derico, MCMP Natural Resource Steward; Justin Rogers, MCMP Planning Manager & Pete Milliken, Environmental Standing Committee member

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Minutes from the October 22, 2018 meeting were approved with no additions or corrections.

Unfinished Business

Andrew Pratt reported that the new High Tunnel should be completed by the first week of December. Total cost is approximately \$43,000.

New Business

Nick Derico discussed the management plans for the MetroParks. His time will be spent between invasive plant management from early spring through summer and environmental documentation for ODOT projects from October to spring. Newport Wetlands, Wildlife Sanctuary and the Lily Pond have been the areas targeted for invasive plant removal in 2018. Purple loosestrife along the Bikeway will be targeted in 2019 as purple loosestrife populations are rebounding. Nick is a licensed pesticide applicator and pesticides used to combat invasives may include Rodeo, Garlon 3A and Cide-kick II. Committee members are welcome to alert him via email to any large invasive populations that are spotted.

Roadway treatment in winter was discussed. Justin Rogers informed the Committee that both road salt and slag are used. The Silver Bridge is not salted; neither is half of East Golf Drive and the roads closed for the winter. A question was raised as to how damaging the salt may be to the plants along the roadsides. Justin responded that the slow speed limits on park roads plus the low volume of material applied reduces spray from the roads. A few Operations staff attended a meeting on salt alternatives, such as a road treatment derived from beet juice.

Roadside trimming will be a focus for the MetroParks for the next couple of months, with some or all of the work contracted out.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Cleveland MetroParks are reaching out to help map the progress of Beech Leaf Disease.

The next Horticulture Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at Birch Hill Cabin.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

*Submitted by Ellen Speicher*