

7 Sept 2017 Horticulture Committee

Present: Deby, Doug, Kelly, Ellen, Andrew, Pam

Absent: Tom, Sara

Called to order at 6:10 pm

Minute corrections: wording "safety issues at the Lily Pond are due to high grass/weeds" and need to be addressed. Pesticide/fertilizer lists were received from Operations.

Motion to accept minutes with corrections, seconded and approved.

Old Business:

FFRG meeting next Tues may be discussing the high tunnel project again, but it is on hold until next year per MCMP board.

Moving Horticulture Education to the Horticulture Committee from the Nature Education committee is on hold pending further action by the Nature Education Committee.

Kelly is still working on pesticide/fertilizer position paper.

Fertilization of roses should be done at 1/mth until late summer, there is a schedule available to follow from previous years. Black spot is quite rampant this year. Andrew has experimented at another garden with more natural fungicides and will explore the possibility of doing so at FRG. Some of the downed trees have been cut or at least moved off the trails, some are still not moved.

New Business:

When presenting position papers to the MCMP board we should consider including an actionable motion as well.

The fact that prior to Feb of 2016 MCMP had a full-time dedicated forestry crew that included at least one certified arborist as well seasonal crew members who were responsible for maintaining the trees, trimming roadsides and clean-up of trails was discussed. It is felt that hiring sub-contractors on an "as needed" basis to handle emergent situations will in the long run leave the 4500 acres of woodlands in very poor health and contribute an air of neglect to MCMP. We believe that it is imperative to the overall health and longevity of MCMP, as a whole, to access and monitor the health of the trees, to selectively remove dangerous fallen trees and/or diseased trees on a regular and continual basis.

Motion to be presented to MCMP Board:

The Horticulture Committee recommends that MCMP employ a dedicated full-time certified field arborist or other qualified forestry professional. This individual should be skilled in rope and saddle climbing, tree pruning, tree identification, identification of tree insect and diseases. They should also be skilled in operation of forestry equipment to include but not limited to the operation of the bucket truck as well as responsibility for safety during all forestry operations.

Motion was made to present this motion to the MCMP board, seconded and approved.

It was suggested that we should call Randy Maleske with identified problems with trees, pruning, trimming, etc.

Next Meeting of MCMP 18 Sept 2017

MCMPB work session 10 Oct 2017

Next Horticulture Committee meeting Mon 23 Oct 2017, 6 pm Birch Hill Cabin.

Adjourned 7:35 pm

Pam Garver, sec.