

MINUTES OF THE HORTICULTURE STANDING COMMITTEE
Meeting held at Birch Hill Cabin, Thursday, March 8, 2018

Present: Deby Clark, Ellen Speicher, Doug Pezzuto, Kelly Bowell, and Andrew Pratt

Absent: Pam Garver (two positions on committee are currently open and awaiting replacement)

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

Minutes from the January 25, 2018 meeting were approved.

A correction was made to the March 8 Agenda to correct classes recommended to Board for arborist training from "Basic Arborist, Line Clearance Arborist and Advanced Arborist" to "Basic Arborist, Advanced Arborist and Electrical Hazards Training."

Old Business:

Discussion ensued on the Board response to the arborist training recommendations presented at the February 12 Board meeting. The Committee reiterated its recommendation that the MetroParks needs an experienced certified arborist, with training and experience in all aspects of large tree removal, tree pests and diseases, and hazardous tree identification, who works in the forested areas of the MetroParks on a continual basis and is directly involved with all tree work performed by MetroParks staff members. A copy of the recommended arborist training was given to Randy Malleske, Operations Manager for the MetroParks, at that meeting. The committee has been informed that Megan Millich, MetroParks HR Director, is looking into the arborist training for staff.

An update on the high tunnel project was requested. Andrew Pratt stated that he was contacted by Paul Hagman, President of the Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens, who requested supporting information for the quote that Andrew submitted for the high tunnel construction. Andrew stated that the initial quote came from High Tunnel Hoop Visions and that he would also be soliciting additional quotes in the future. A suggestion was made to contact Amish builders.

The Horticulture Committee is still awaiting two new appointees. Deby Clark has been in contact with Lee Frey, President of the Board, and after the February Board meeting was told by Aaron Young that applicants have been contacted and they are waiting on responses.

Our March meeting was originally planned to be held at Pioneer Pavilion to enable the committee to do a walk-through of the surrounding area to scout for landscaping, invasive plant and tree issues. Prior to the meeting, Andrew Pratt was contacted by Mandy Walker who informed him that Pioneer Pavilion was not a handicapped-accessible facility as required for our open public meetings. A discussion of which facilities are available for committee meetings that are near desired walk-through areas followed.

New Business:

Kelly Bowell shared a photograph of a tree leaning over High Drive. The photograph was taken about two weeks ago. At that time, Kelly texted the information to Deby Clark and Doug Pezzuto on the Horticulture committee and Randy Malleske, MetroParks staff. The response from Randy Malleske was that park staff is monitoring the tree and that it is "on the list." Doug Pezzuto stated that, based on the

photograph, there is little root support keeping the tree upright. High Drive is currently closed to vehicular traffic, but the Committee expressed concern that pedestrians are still walking on this road.

The next MCMP Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 12 at 6 p.m. at the MCMP Farm.

The next Horticulture Committee meeting was set for Thursday, April 12, at 6 p.m. at Birch Hill Cabin. A walk-through of the Lily Pond area will be part of the agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by Ellen Speicher